MILF blasts latest gov't offer of amnesty

STORY ON PAGE A2

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MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2001 ★ 76 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 183 P15

High court is going high tech

ALL RISE, THE COURT IS NOW ONLINE!

BY C. C. YAMSUAN

IMAGINE a "paperless court" where the witness takes the stand online, and a cyber-judge hands down an e-

HIGH/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Banks' bad loans worsen** BUSINESS / B1
- **Capriati rules French Open** SPORTS / A22
- **Mimosa Casino to reopen** BUSINESS / B8
- **Dagupan still 'bangus' capital** ACROSS / A15

Erap lawyers to press bid on house arrest

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

LAWYERS for Joseph Estrada are preparing to fight the Sandiganbayan's decision to deny the ousted President's petition for house arrest, and will file a motion—tentatively today—asking the court to reconsider its resolution, defense counsel Rene Saguisag said yesterday.

A day after the anti-graft court struck down the request and ordered the jailed ex-President returned to his detention house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Saguisag said his client "was disappointed since many in the community and not only in the political leadership supported house arrest."

Estrada had apparently thought that a favorable Sandiganbayan ruling was in the bag, considering that prominent figures in government, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, had either supported or expressed no objection to the idea of his being detained in his mansion at No. 1 Polk St. in North Greenhills.

"He had reason to hope," Saguisag said.

The lawyer said that when he relayed the bad news to Estrada and co-accused son Jinggoy at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, "I told

ERAP/ A6

House impeach revolt turning point in history

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

AS THE 12th Congress prepares for the opening of its first regular session next month, it would be an affront to history if we did not recognize that it was the revolt of the last Congress that was responsible for the impeachment of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The referral by the House of Representatives of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate last Nov. 13 was nothing but a revolt. In that revolt, Estrada's majority coalition in Congress, the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino (LAMP), crumbled in the House, paving the way for the impeachment trial in the Senate.

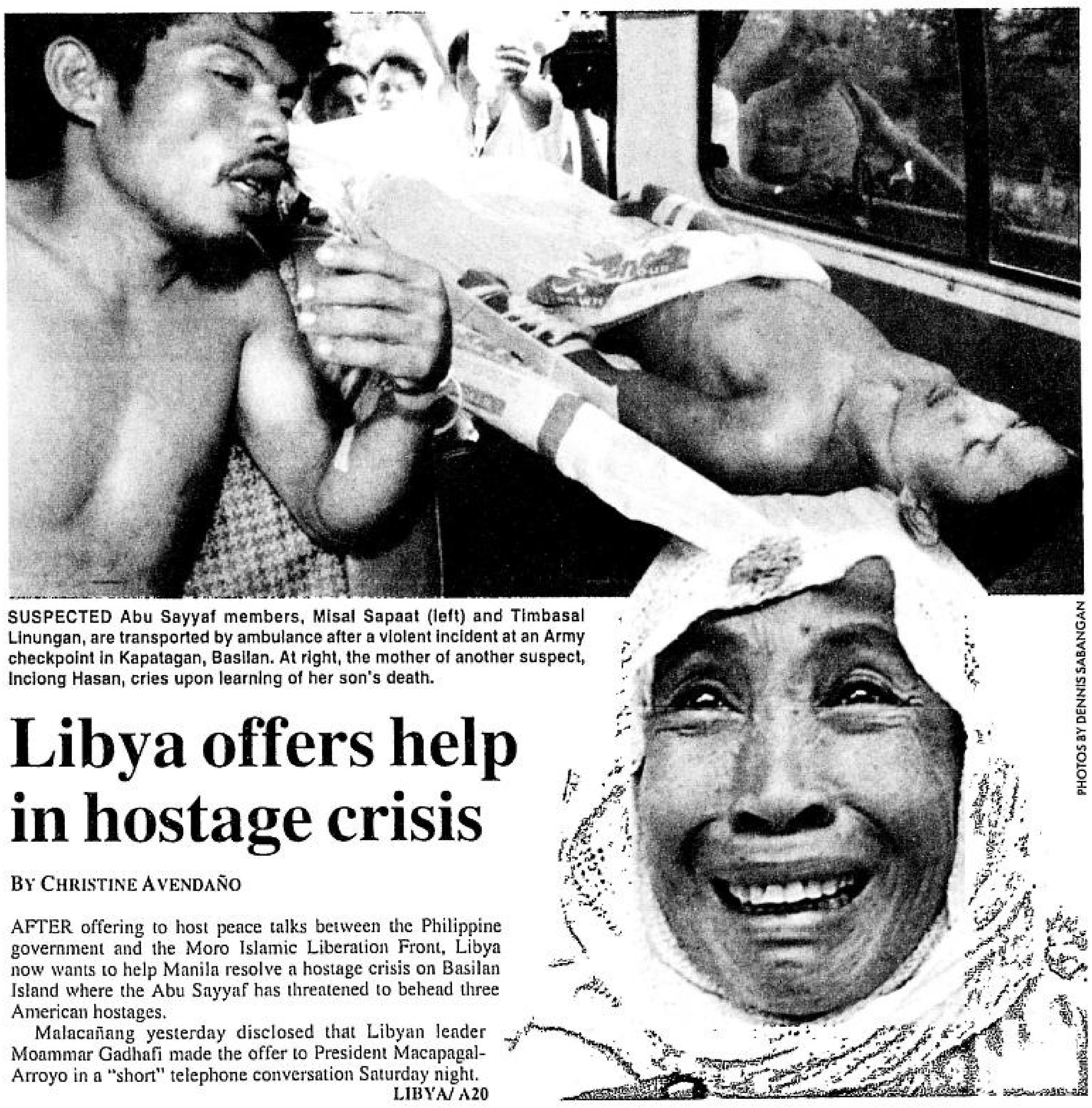
In that revolt, the House emerged more heroically than the Senate, which was damaged by the abortion of the impeachment trial. The House rose above its captivity by Estrada, through his control of release of pork barrel patronage funds.

I put forward this revolt thesis in one of the chapters in my forthcoming book on Estrada's fall and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's succession

HOUSE/ A6

2 Abu suspects slain in Basilan

Military mistook victims for bandits, kin say



SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf members, Misal Sapaat (left) and Timbasal Linungan, are transported by ambulance after a violent incident at an Army checkpoint in Kapatagan, Basilan. At right, the mother of another suspect, Inciong Hasan, cries upon learning of her son's death.

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

TWO SUSPECTED members of the Abu Sayyaf were shot dead and two others were wounded by soldiers manning a checkpoint on the outskirts of the capital of Basilan Island on Saturday night.

Three others were arrested, according to the military.

But relatives of the fatalities and the wounded claimed that the military mistook the victims for bandits.

The suspected bandits were allegedly attempting to escape from soldiers who arrested them at an Army checkpoint, 14 km from Isabela City. There were no reports of government casualties.

Hours before, government forces clashed with fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Tuburan town.

The encounter occurred days after Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, accused the MILF of supporting the Abu Sayyaf in the face of an all-out military campaign against the bandits.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said one soldier was wounded in the gun battle at Sitio Diggo, Barangay Capago in Tuburan at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Adan had earlier described Tuburan as an MILF stronghold. It was in the same town that government forces first made contact with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The two fatalities in Sitio Kapatagan, Barangay Maligue in Isabela were identified as Inciong Hasan and Hadji Alih Lukman.

Adan said the suspected Abu Sayyaf members were believed to

2 ABU/ A20

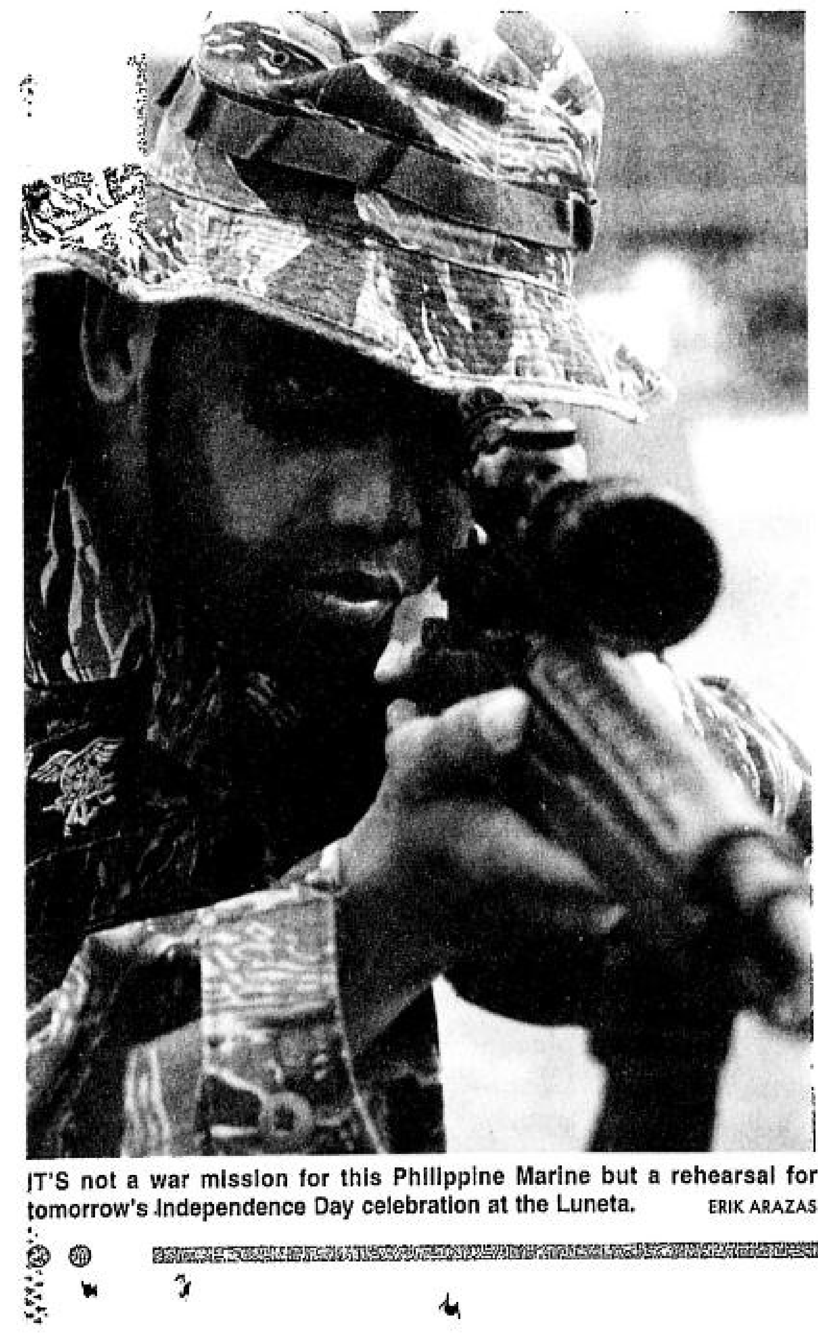
Libya offers help in hostage crisis

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

AFTER offering to host peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Libya now wants to help Manila resolve a hostage crisis on Basilan Island where the Abu Sayyaf has threatened to behead three American hostages.

Malacañang yesterday disclosed that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi made the offer to President Macapagal-Arroyo in a "short" telephone conversation Saturday night.

LIBYA/ A20



IT'S not a war mission for this Philippine Marine but a rehearsal for tomorrow's Independence Day celebration at the Luneta. ERIK ARAZAS

103RD INDEPENDENCE DAY

Guillermo: Unknown freedom fighter

BY MARIA CIELITO G. REYNO
National Historical Institute

INDEPENDENCE DAY is a time not only for celebrating the country's deliverance from colonial bondage. More importantly, it is a time for honoring those who made that deliverance a reality to be enjoyed by future generations.

Sadly many of them are still unknown and remain unsung in history books, a blight on the state of Philippine education. Faustino Guillermo, a true Filipino who made the ultimate sacrifice for love of country, is one unsung hero.

Shielded by the thick cover of the jungle, Guillermo waited patiently for the precise moment to launch his attack on the enemy. When the moment came, he led his band of guerrillas in a lightning strike, in which blade cut into flesh, leaving no quarters or time for the enemy to use his guns to hit back.

At the end of the assault, a flank of enemy soldiers went down. Hours later, he pounced again upon the enemy, and in the crippling attack of the bolo knives, several enemies were killed.

As quickly as he came out, so did Guillermo swiftly return to his jungle sanctuary. There, biding his time, sometimes for months on end, he unerringly prepared his next ambush.

He eluded the traps set for him by the enemy—at least for a time—thus earning the fury of the latter and the admiration of the Filipinos.

The earliest date cited on Guillermo was August-September 1896, the period immediately after the Battle of San Juan del Monte.

Following this debacle, he joined Andres Bonifacio, leader of the revolutionary organization called Kataastaasang Kagalanggalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (Highest, Most Respectable Society of the Sons of the People) and other KKK stalwarts, such as Emilio Jacinto, Macario Sakay and Apolonio Samson, in the Marikina, San Mateo and Montalban area.

There, they lodged temporarily to nurse their wounds and recoup their strength, hoping to launch another attack on the enemy.

Their compatriots did not let their hopes down. Every day, the revolutionary roster grew as hosts

GUILLERMO/ A19

Tribe to protect Igorot hero's grave

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The original Philippine flag that was hoisted on the balcony of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898 will be unfurled again here on Independence Day.

Only this time, the mythical face emblazoned on the flag's symbolic sun god will be offering the grave of an unheralded Igorot revolutionary hero its badly needed blessings.

The Aguinaldo Foundation here, which has been the flag's custodian for nearly three decades, is interested in the gravesite of Mateo "Kustacio" Carantes, as well as accounts of a mysterious revolutionary flag many believe Aguinaldo left with him during the Filipino-American War.

Some historical accounts credit Carantes as Aguinaldo's revolutionary liaison officers, along with Mateo Cariño, the Ibaloi who beat out the American colonial government before the US Supreme Court over a real estate suit involving the present Camp John Hay.

Ibaloi elders in Baguio and from as far as the towns of Itogon and Kapangan in Benguet are calling on younger members of their clan to immediately protect the grave of Carantes, which they fear government intends to displace soon.

Carantes, considered Benguet's "grand old man," is buried with his wife Ugasia and eight other Ibaloi clansmen under an old wooden house in Barangay Loakan.

In 1980, the Marcos regime expropriated the land where Carantes was buried for the Baguio City Export Processing Zone.

Carantes' story can fill up a huge historical void left open by unsubstantiated accounts of Igorots in the service of the Katipunan, the secret society of Filipino revolutionaries.

Even Aguinaldo's own memoirs, written a few years before his death in 1964, provided no more than a sketchy anecdote about encountering "hostile Igorot tribes" when he retreated from advancing American colonial troops through the Cordillera, said Francisco Alonso, curator and archivist of the Aguinaldo Museum here.

But historians often refer to

TRIBE/ A19

PEACE AT ANY COST BA 'YAN?

MILF blasts latest gov't offer of amnesty

By Allan Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DIGOS CITY—As the resumption of the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front draws near, the government is dangling yet another amnesty program solely for members of the rebel group.

The MILF, however, was quick to lambaste the amnesty offer.

Notices of the amnesty program urging rebels to return to the government fold have dotted this city since Saturday.

In bold letters they announce: "*Kapayapaan sa* Mindanao....*Ngayon na*! Amnesty *para sa* MILF, Proc. No. 360." (Peace in Mindanao…Now!)

The announcement directs applicants to contact the amnesty boards in their areas, such as in Koronadal, South Cotabato, Davao City, Zamboanga City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Bad faith

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the government was obviously intent on quelling the rebellion by enticing their members to surrender.

"(It is) a manifestation of the government's bad faith. It is obvious the (government) is not sincere in looking for a just and lasting political solution to the Mindanao problem," Kabalu said.

He said the government was wrong in thinking that the Moro rebellion would end if it succeeded in enticing MILF members to surrender.

"As long as the root cause of the problem is not resolved, the rebellion would continue. There would be no way to stop it," Kabalu said.

Moner Bajunaid, a former member of the MILF peace panel, branded the government offer as "vicious."

Recycled policy

"This is devoid of a deep understanding of the Moro problem. This is a recycled policy," Bajunaid said.

He also warned that giving amnesty to MILF members would not end the rebellion.

"It did not work in the past. It will not work now," he said.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns-Southern Mindanao, refused to give a detailed comment on the amnesty offer.

Dureza is also chair of the government peace panel that will meet with the MILF.

"This is not new. The government has offered amnesties in the past," he said.

On the timing of the announcement, Dureza said it might only have been a lapse on the part of officials concerned.

"This is the first time I heard about it," Dureza said.

Resumption of talks

The peace talks between the government and the MILF are set to resume on June 24 in Tripoli, Libya.

The MILF panel is headed by Murad Ebrahim, Al Haj, the group's military chief.

Kabalu said the MILF is confident about the conviction of its members and it is unlikely a true freedom fighter would be enticed by the amnesty offer.

In the past, the government had claimed that its amnesty offers had resulted in a number of MILF surrenderees but the rebel group said those who yielded were bandits who wanted to cash in on the program.

Under the government's amnesty program, individuals who surrender their firearms are given cash, aside from livelihood projects.

'Guilty'

In Mati, Davao Oriental, 31 suspected MILF supporters held at the provincial jail since July said they would be forced to plead guilty so they could avail of the amnesty program.

"We will admit we are MILF supporters even if we are not, if that's the only way we can get out of jail," Ustadz Russelle Lagbawan told the INQUIRER.

Lagbawan said he and his fellow detainees did not really want to apply for amnesty "because it would mean admitting that we have anything to do with the MILF."

"But we think that by admitting that we are MILF supporters, we would qualify to be called political prisoners, therefore we could apply for political amnesty," he said. *With Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MNLF nixes independent state

COTABATO CITY—The executive council of the Moro National Liberation Front has threatened to expel members expressing support for the establishment of an independent Islamic state.

The MNLF said support for an independent state instead of regional autonomy would be a violation of the peace agreement the organization signed with the government in 1996.

A two-day command conference of MNLF field commanders and state chairs that ended yesterday passed a resolution reiterating their commitment to upholding the peace pact, Abdul Sahrim, MNLF military intelligence officer and co-chair of the government-MNLF joint monitoring committee, said.

"We will not allow this to happen because it will be a violation of the Final Peace Agreement that [MNLF chair Nur] Misuari himself signed with the government in 1996," Sahrim said.

The MNLF appears to be divided on the issue of regional autonomy. Some MNLF members loyal to chair Nur Misuari support a proposal made at the Bangsamoro People's Consultative Assembly in Zamboanga City last month to establish a Bangsamoro Republic in Mindanao.

In that assembly, Misuari was named the first president of the Bangsamoro Republic, with his senior adviser, Absalom Cerveza, appointed prime minister.

Sahrim said Misuari had become ineffective because of his numerous positions in government. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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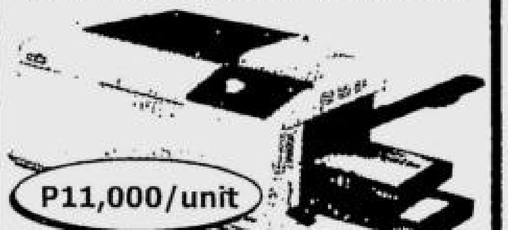
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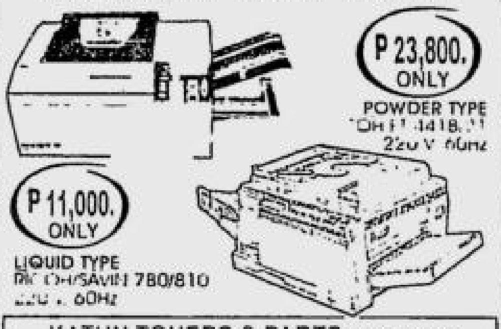
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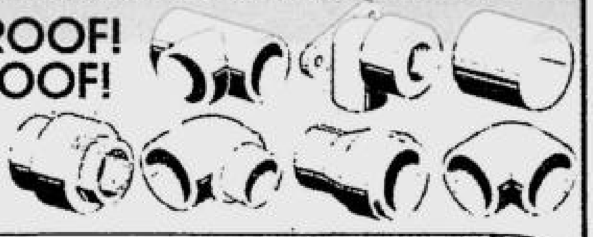
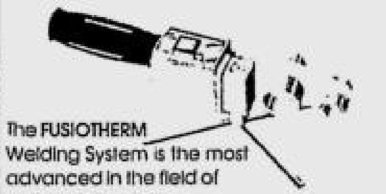
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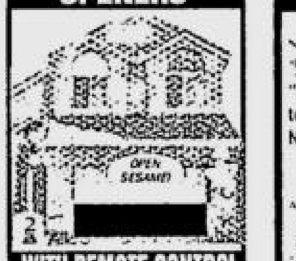
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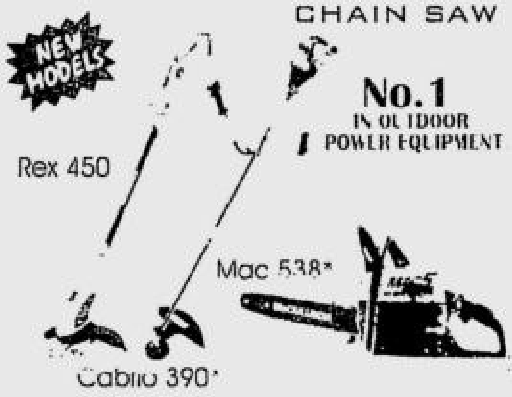
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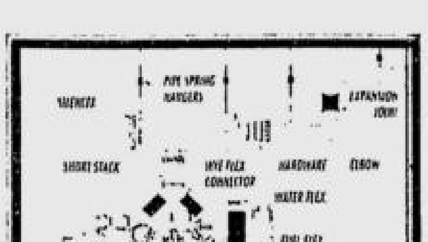
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Militants protest SSS privatization

By A. Echavez

MILITANTS have vowed to strongly oppose the planned privatization of the government-owned Social Security System, saying it would only mean higher premiums and poorer service for its millions of members.

Thousands of activists will take to the streets today to protest the privatization scheme, which they described as a "sellout of a worker-funded institution in favor of big business." Most of the SSS members are employees of private firms.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno and the government workers' group Courage will spearhead the protest in front of the SSS offices on East Avenue, Quezon City. Joining them will be the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayan Muna and allied groups, including the SSS employees union.

"We must not fall for the sugar-coated lies of the government regarding the SSS privatization. Our experience with the sellout of Petron and the water system in Metro Manila points to the fact that privatization does not benefit the people at all," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño.

"Like Petron, Maynilad and Manila Water, the new owners of the SSS will eventually hike premiums but render poorer service. Workers will end up with even smaller take-home pay, higher interest for their loans and stricter requirements in order to get more meager services," Casiño said.

Casiño said the workers should not be made to suffer for the previous administration's use of SSS funds to "salvage" ailing corporations owned by cronies of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"In case the Macapagal administration and the public have forgotten, the SSS was used by the previous administration to pump the workers' money into Equitable Bank and other banks," he said.

Casiño urged the government to forego with the privatization, liberalization and deregulation schemes he said were forced upon it by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

"These policies have brought only havoc and more burden to the Filipino people. The only ones who benefit from them are the big foreign and local capitalists who are able to seize control of strategic services at bargain basement prices," he said.

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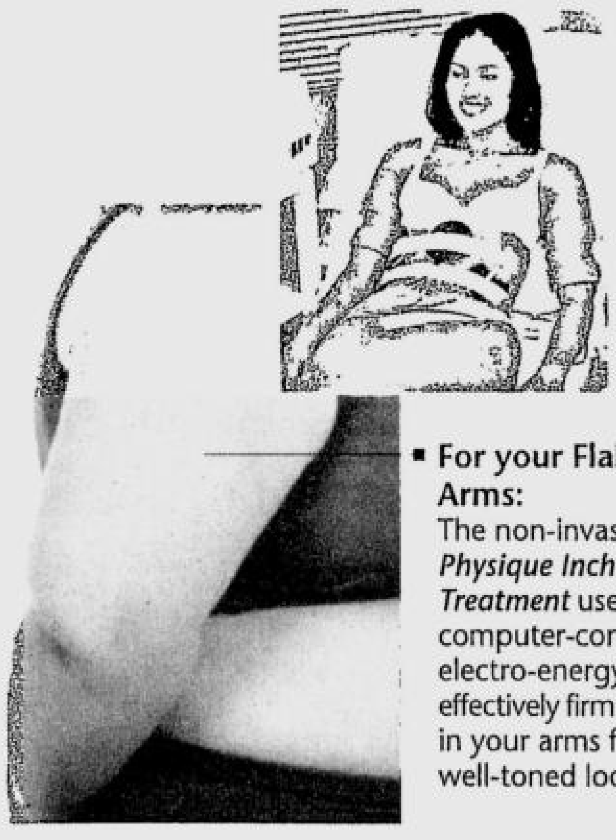
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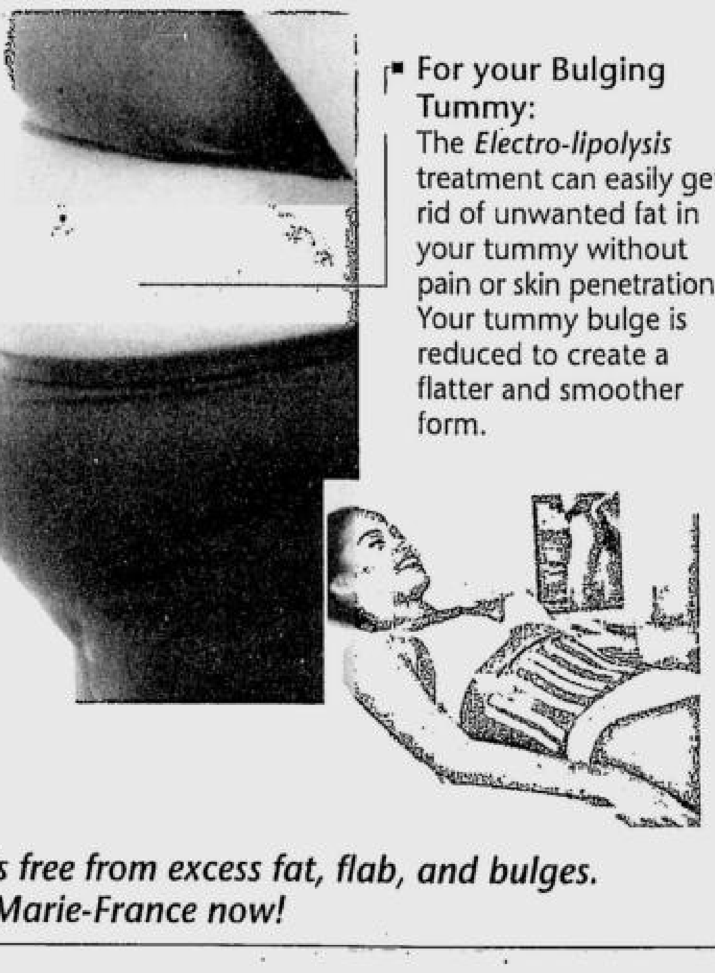
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Probe of military abuses vs farmers urged

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

TWO Cabinet officials would ask the Commission on Human Rights to investigate alleged human rights abuses committed by the military against farmers in certain areas of Luzon and prosecute those found guilty.

This after militant farmers protesting the slow pace of land reform and the alleged militarization of the countryside ended their two-day protest at Malacañang over the weekend after President Macapagal-Arroyo met with their leaders.

This was the first time protesting farmers belonging to the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas were able to gain access to the Palace and take their demands directly to the President.

After the three-hour meeting with the peasant leaders, the President instructed Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to continue to dialogue with the group and to submit their recommendations to the farmers' demands.

"The President made it clear that she wants decisive action," said Braganza who arranged the impromptu dialogue at the Palace's Mabini Hall.

"I am sure this was appreciated by the farmers, who decided to end their protest after the dialogue with the President," he said.

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FARMERS vent their anger at militarization and the slow pace of agrarian reform before packing up after President Macapagal promised to look into the complaints.

Also present at the meeting were top officials of the Departments of Justice, Agriculture and Interior and Local Government and the Presidential Management Staff.

The farmers, who had been camping out for two days in front of the Palace, complained that some of their members have stopped tending their farms for fear of harassment by soldiers deployed in Southern Tagalog, Northern Luzon and Central Luzon.

They claimed that some farmers had been subjected to threats, intimidation and harassment on suspicion of being members or sympathizers of the communist New People's Army.

Romulo and Braganza maintained that the government could not pull the troops out of the provinces since it has a duty to maintain law and order and protect citizens from the armed insurgents.

This was when the two said they will recommend that the CHR investigate alleged human rights abuses against the farmers.

Justice department officials, for their part, recommended the reactivation of the Presidential Human Rights Committee to ensure strict implementation of human rights laws.

At the same meeting, the farmers clarified news reports that they had staged a weeklong campout at the DAR central office to press for the ouster of Braganza, saying they had made no such demand.

They explained that the farmers had trooped to the DAR central office to ask the secretary to act on specific agrarian cases that previous administrations had failed to resolve.

The demand for Braganza's head, however, had come from the Task Force Mapalad farmers from Negros Occidental who were protesting the delay in the awarding of lands to them.

But yesterday, Danilo Flores, task force spokesperson, said, "Perhaps he (Braganza) was just paranoid or simply naïve. He may be experiencing a paranoia of persecution."

"No one from our group was blaming him for the failure of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in Negros. All we were telling him was to do his job and do it well. We don't need another lame duck at the Department of Agrarian Reform or the future of the farmers will again be put in jeopardy," he said.

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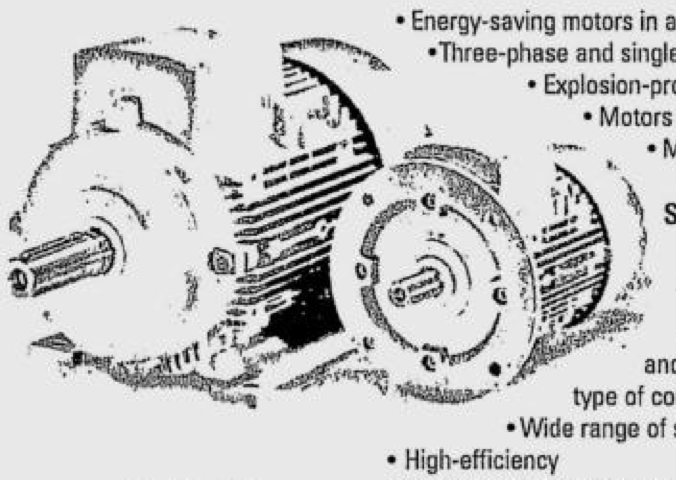
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Unlicensed tutors can keep teaching–Roco

By Agnes E. Donato

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco has allowed unlicensed private school teachers to continue teaching until they could take the board exams in August.

Roco's move is expected to help smooth the opening of classes today in the country's private schools.

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines and other private schools had written the department regarding their concerns over teachers in their employ who had not passed the licensure examinations.

Under Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) rules, unlicensed teachers are to be relieved of their posts and made to take the board exams before being allowed to resume teaching.

Many veteran teachers, however, said they did not take the exams because of a provision in the Magna Carta for Teachers which states that those who have been teaching at least five years are exempt from the tests.

Roco told the private school administrators to "maintain the status quo of your teaching staff and ensure that the right to education is protected and assured".

The education secretary had sought the support of the Civil Service Commission and the PRC in working out an extension for the affected teachers.

He said Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was amenable to reviewing RA 7836, or the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994, in light of the non-impairment clause in the Constitution.

"The justice secretary is also concerned about the academic freedom guarantees to institutions of higher learning," Roco said.

Move gov't South? Guingona likes it

THE GOVERNMENT is open to a proposal made by Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. to transfer the seat of power to Mindanao, but Malacañang has yet to consider this.

"Of course, the government is open to such proposals but we would have to consider it. These kinds of proposals should be considered but there have been no discussions yet or even a study made on it," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters yesterday.

Guingona said he wanted Central Mindanao instead of Metro Manila to be the seat of the national government, because the transfer would result in the "full and focused development of Mindanao."

He proposed amending Presidential Decree 940 which declares Metro Manila to be the seat of the national government.

The Vice President cited the advantages that were gained by other countries like Malaysia and Brazil which transferred their seats of government.

Malaysia moved its government center from Kuala Lumpur to Putrajaya, while Brazil from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia. *Christine Avendaño*

Brunei experience fails to discourage Filipino workers

By TJ Burgonio

FILIPINO workers who resigned from their jobs in a garments factory in Brunei returned yesterday, seemingly unfazed by their work experience in the sultanate.

The workers, numbering around 80, comprised the last batch of more than 200 Filipinos who had lost their jobs at the garment factory after going on strike over unfair labor practices last month.

Alberto Lagado, one of the workers, seemed not to be worried about his future job prospects.

Despite an expected backlash from foreign employers, he said he would continue to seek work abroad, including Brunei, pointing out that he resigned and was not terminated from the Malaysian-owned factory, which churns out Gap shirts.

"I don't think we did anything illegal. We filed our resignation a month in advance," said the 29-year-old Lagado, who like most of the Filipino workers resigned from the Seri Azhima Jaya Garments and Textiles after a few months of working there.

His point was shared by fellow workers Evangeline Mamantal, 38, and Cris Tejado, 34, who arrived with him from the sultanate aboard Brunei Airlines before noon yesterday.

"We were not terminated. We resigned on our own," said Mamantal. "Those who went on strike last year were the ones who were terminated," added Tejado of Novaliches, Quezon City.

Wilhelm Soriano, administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, had warned that the striking garment factory workers faced a backlash from foreign employers for pre-terminating their contracts with the factory.

Lagado, Mamantal and Tejado and the 80 other garment factory workers were the last batch of the striking employees to come home.

More than 200 workers have been repatriated by the OWWA to Manila since last month.

The workers started arriving in groups starting May 23, nine days after they went on strike at the main office and branch of the factory in protest over their low pay, poor working conditions and discrimination.

The factory, which makes Gap shirts, also employs Bangladeshi and Indonesian nationals.

According to the returning workers, a small number of Filipinos opted to stay at the factory just to finish their contracts this year.

Fire hits residence of Belmonte in-law

A ONE-HOUR fire struck the residence of incoming Quezon City mayor Feliciano Belmonte's mother-in-law yesterday.

The blaze severely damaged the home of Feliza Go at 1497 E. Rodriguez Blvd., Barangay Kristong Hari, Quezon City, according to Supt. Renato P. Valebia, Galas police station commander.

No one was injured in the fire, Valebia said.

He said Go's housemaids, Virginia Sumaya and Buancia Acosta, were the only ones home when the blaze started at 3:24 p.m.

The fire spread quickly to other parts of the three-story house, Valebia added, before firefighters were able to put it under control at 4:12 p.m. It was finally extinguished at 4:34 p.m., Valebia said.

He said arson investigators are trying to determine the cause of the blaze. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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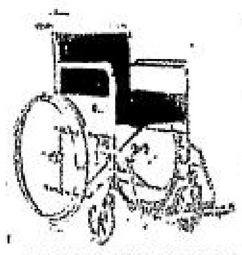

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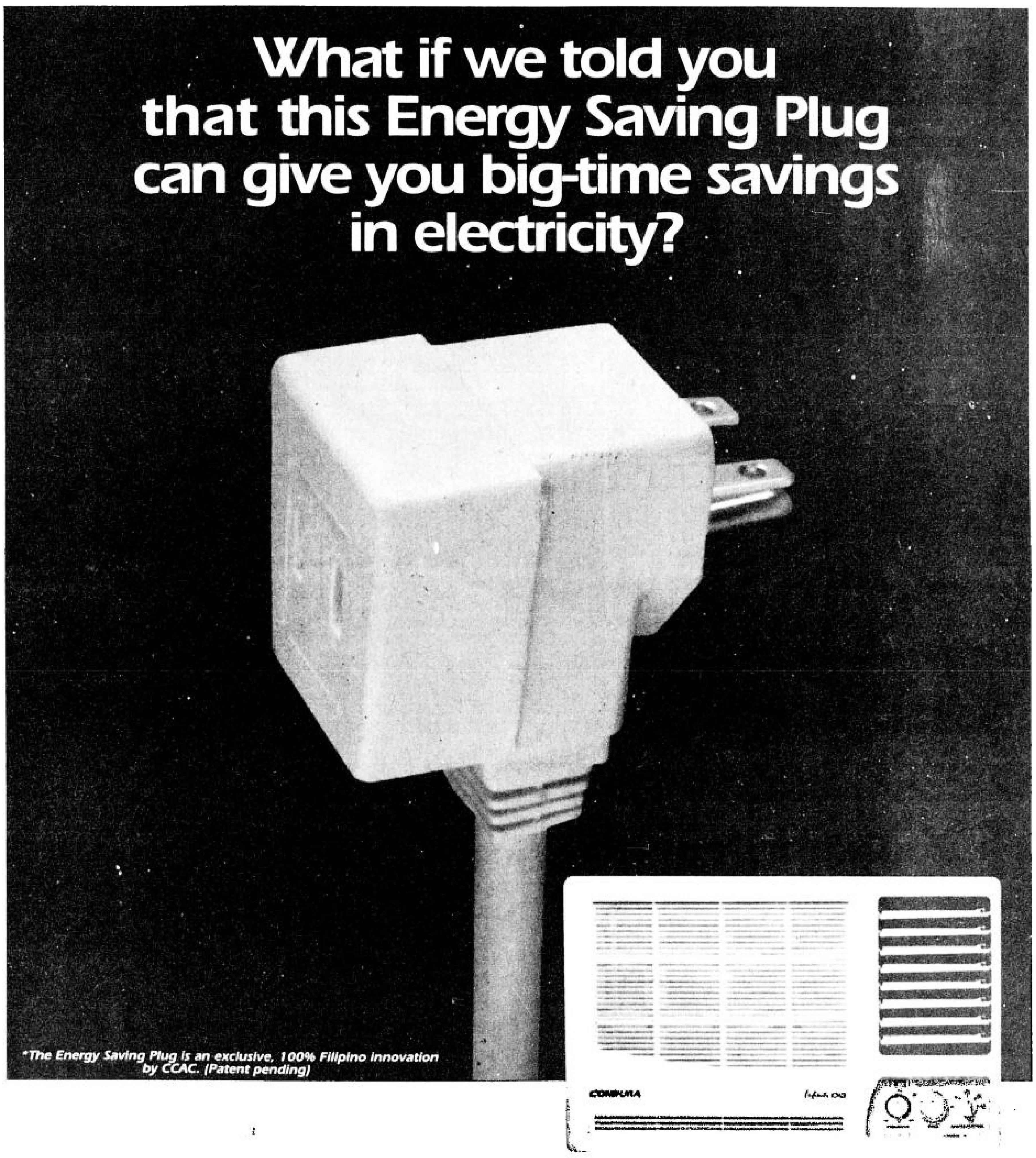

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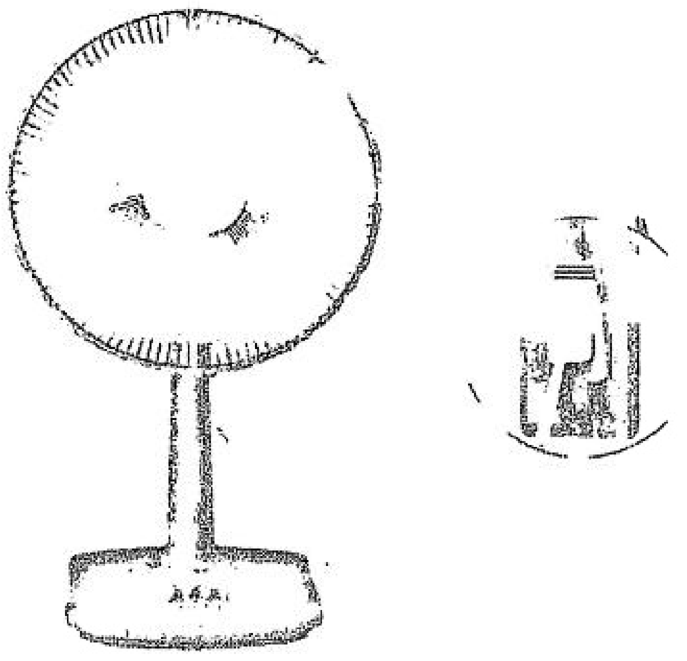

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Erap lawyers to press bid on house arrest

(From page A1)

them to accept it for the moment" while the defense team prepares to file a motion for reconsideration.

He said the defense would capitalize on an opinion issued by Associate Justice Ricardo Ilarde, one of the three members of Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division, which struck down the initial petition early Saturday after overnight deliberations.

Ilarde said the court had an "inherent right" to grant house arrest depending on the circumstances of the case, even in the absence of a law allowing house arrest.

Saguisag said "we will try to press Ilarde's point; in effect, he agreed with us (Estrada's lawyers). The court can do many things that are not in black and white if they are in the furtherance of justice."

The division's two other justices, chair Anacleto Badoy Jr. and Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, have questioned the court's power to grant house arrest, suggesting that the decision lies with Congress.

The debate moved to the legislature yesterday, with a senator saying the anti-graft court has jurisdiction over the issue, and a congressman warning that legislators are likely to block any bill proposing legalizing house arrest.

Pimentel: Court has power

Outgoing Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday agreed with Ilarde's argument that the court had the "inherent power" to decide where Estrada should be detained.

Reiterating his opinion that Estrada should be placed under house arrest, Pimentel stressed that the accused ex-President "is not yet a convict and not in the same league with (former) Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jaloslos and former Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez," imprisoned politicians convicted of rape in separate cases.

"The rationale for the imprisonment of a detention prisoner is to ensure that he's present in the trial," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

He said Estrada should be put under house or hospital arrest so as "not to create undue tension in the body politic."

He added: "I hope that I am wrong but I am worried that tensions would be exacerbated by insisting that Estrada be placed in the confines of a prison cell."

'Long wait'

For his part, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said Estrada could not count on the incoming 12th Congress to pass any bill seeking to grant privileges to detainees in special cases.

"If the remedial measure lies in Congress, then the President is in for a long wait," Zubiri added.

The administration congressman said the ex-President's political allies no longer have the numbers to pass such a bill, and that it was highly unlikely that such a measure would land in the President's legislative agenda at the opening of the new Congress on July 23.

Should such a bill be filed, it would be "hotly debated and intensely scrutinized," and would probably be immediately shot down for being unconstitutional, Zubiri warned.

In another warning addressed to Malacañang, Zubiri said Ms Macapagal would risk her political capital if she endorsed—or even failed to protest—a bill providing for house arrest.

On annex

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday that the military believed a proposed annex at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center to house Estrada and Jinggoy could pose a security problem.

"From the military's point of view, an isolated structure where they could ring the perimeter would be easier to protect . . . they're now evaluating this," Tiglao said.

The President last month ordered a halt to the controversial construction pending the outcome of the house arrest case in court.

The court has ordered Estrada's doctors to submit a report stating whether Estrada and his son need to remain in the hospital, where they have been detained for more than three weeks now.

Supportive

Apart from Ms Macapagal and Pimentel, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, senators-elect Joker Arroyo and Manuel Villar, and presidential housing adviser Michael Defensor are among those who have gone "on record" supporting Estrada's petition for house arrest, Saguisag said.

He said Jesuit priest Joaquin Bernas, a respected constitutionalist, was also in favor of house arrest and shared the view that such detention privileges were justified in the case of former presidents who are "in a class of their own."

A May 4 Pulse Asia survey showed that 52 percent of those polled in Metro Manila favored house arrest for Estrada, a finding that was also a source of hope for the fallen leader, Saguisag added.

Security nightmare

The lawyer also said the Sandiganbayan and the Philippine National Police must brace themselves for the "security nightmare" of transporting the Estradas to and from their detention center in Sta. Rosa to the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City during their trial on charges of plunder and graft.

"Transporting them, exposing them to the public, will present its own set of problems. Suppose (Estrada) is ambushed? He has got enemies. What if it rains and the streets get flooded?" Saguisag wondered.

The Sandiganbayan has ordered the PNP to present the detainees in court from June 18 to 28 for bail hearings of a third co-accused, lawyer Edward Serapio.

Tunnel to Laarni's?

As Estrada's legal team prepared to ask the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its decision, Saguisag scoffed at one of the court's more unusual arguments.

The court had said that Estrada, if held under house arrest, might even dig a tunnel under his house to escape.

"Does one dig a tunnel to get out of his own home? Isn't it the other way around?" Saguisag said. "You tunnel out of prison, not to flee your own house."

"It's incredible" that the court resorted to that line of reasoning, he added.

In a lighter moment, Saguisag came up with an Erap joke. "Perhaps the court was really worried about President Estrada digging a tunnel to get to 'other homes,' not to escape detention." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

High court . . .

(From page A1)

ruling not with the bang of a gavel but with the click of a mouse.

In a nation where the wheels of justice often run slow, the Supreme Court celebrates its centennial today excitedly poring over the map leading to the information highway.

It's a virtual world out there, and SC justices want to get with the 21st century. They're even using the jargon and talking about "the e-justice corridor."

They eye a scenario where traumatized victims and scared witnesses can testify from safe houses through "videoconferencing," by which cases can be tried and concluded without the filing of voluminous records, and by which court archives can be accessed through electronic equipment.

The judiciary has long realized that the impact of information technology "will definitely have an impact on the justice system," and the SC wants to arm itself with computers, and software and other equipment that will help it deliver justice faster, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. said.

For starters, 1,500 computer sets are bound for distribution to lower courts nationwide, according to Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban. The computers include programs containing archived SC rulings for easy reference.

"This will really herald the computerization of our justice system here in the Philippines. This will happen this year. We'll see to it that this is done before the year 2001 is over, so that our justice system can be computerized," Panganiban said confidently.

In September, SC justices will attend a special lecture by an Australian justice on a "Paperless Court" to provide them with a preview of how courts can work mainly with computers and dispense with mountains of documents.

In September 1999, SC officials attended a workshop where they were oriented on the use of high-tech equipment in expediting the trial of cases, especially those involving heinous offenses.

They were shown how two-way televisions in arraignments and witness examinations allowed traumatized victims and witnesses to testify without facing suspects in court.

They also witnessed how courts can benefit from ceiling-mounted cameras, microphone voice-initiated switching, graphics-and-television-capable computers, and real-time computer-displayed transcriptions for hearing-impaired witnesses.

The workshop promoted the high-tech court system already practiced in Williamsburg, Virginia, and in other cities where rape victims and witnesses can now testify on videophones.

SC officials said the adoption of such equipment in the Philippines would greatly reduce court expenses for witnesses' travel and food, among others.

E-justice corridor

Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing was among several officials whom Davide sent to Singapore recently to know more about computer technology and how to file pleadings without lugging around voluminous documents.

Quisumbing came back sounding like a character from the blockbuster hit, "The Matrix."

He observed that although many Filipinos have the perception that they are behind their neighbors when it comes to computers and technology, "we are not behind the other Asean countries. It's just a matter of when we do it. We have joined the e-justice corridor of Southeast Asia."

Quisumbing said the most urgent need of the Philippine justice system to put itself at par with the rest of Southeast Asia was access to "satellite feeds that would link the courts (nationwide). Then we would be able to do the filing and record keeping through the electronic system," like other countries.

In July [illegible] August, a panel of lawyers from the Commission [illegible] evision of Rules of Court will submit proposa[illegible] guidelines for the implementation of the recently approved e-commerce law.

Davide said he had been warned that implementing laws in a field still alien to the local legal system could be "very complicated."

Still, Davide remains optimistic that the judiciary can take on this challenge. "I think (the time will come when we) could even be the model already for other jurisdictions on e-commerce."

House impeach revolt turning point in history

(From page A1)

to the presidency.

The chapter examines and explains how it came to happen that for the first time in the history of Philippine democracy and in Asia, a president was impeached.

In his valedictory last week, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. highlighted the historic role of the House in the impeachment. He pointed out that the chamber went through three leadership upheavals within three months. The upheavals were an upshot of the turbulence in the House rocked by the impeachment crisis.

Belmonte, as well as Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., cited legislative accomplishments, including the passage of the Clean Air Act, the lifting of the political ad ban, the Solid Waste Management Act and, in its twilight days, the Power Industry Restructuring Bill.

These pieces of reform legislation were solid achievements. The power bill was in fact a credit to Congress for shedding partisan conflict that divided it during the impeachment trial and for moving it out of the stalemate of six years.

Claim to history

But this legislative package was dwarfed by Congress' impeachment role. The 11th Congress carved its claim to history by being the first Congress ever to impeach a president.

The impeachment action, seen from another perspective, was a revenge on then President Estrada by one of the state institutions—the legislature—that he had undermined through his highly personalistic style of leadership.

The LAMP coalition was merely a façade that was not cemented by strong bonds provided by party principles and policies. Since it was hollow, the alliance cracked at the first blast of Estrada's leadership crisis.

The 11th Congress listened to the streets and to the events swirling around Estrada when the House leadership transmitted the impeachment articles to the Senate. The attack on Estrada's first line of defense in the House by the impeachment movers began on Oct. 18 when three opposition congressmen and 24 multisectoral organizations filed an impeachment complaint in the House.

The congressmen were Heherson Alvarez, Ernesto Herrera and Michael Defensor. Forty-two other lawmakers, including eight from the LAMP, endorsed the complaint.

Big hole

The complaint did not move beyond the justice committee until Nov. 3, when Speaker Manuel Villar withdraw from the LAMP, together with 40 other congressmen, punching a big hole in the alliance.

The signatures of the defectors, together with those of the 45 original signatories, reached beyond 73—more than one-third of the House membership that was required to send the complaint to the Senate. Villar was the 73rd signatory, clearing the complaint for endorsement to the Senate.

The numbers grew despite the fact that in late October, Estrada called congressmen to emergency meetings in the Palace to line up support by promising them the release of their infrastructure funds.

Most of those called were members of the House justice committee, where the complaint was first referred. Estrada began to rally his congressional allies after the prospects of impeachment were enhanced by the Senate blue ribbon committee investigation of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's charges that the President allegedly pocketed millions in "jueteng" money and tobacco excise taxes.

The blandishment failed to avert defections. Villar brought out from the coalition a bloc of 40 Lakas congressmen, shaving LAMP's 158-majority (or 71.8 percent) in the 220-seat House.

The defections came amid escalating pressure from the streets for Estrada's resignation and his increasing isolation in the business community.

On Oct. 12, then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo resigned from the Cabinet. On the same day, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., and Rep. Roilo Golez withdrew from the LAMP.

On Nov. 2, when Estrada came close to stepping down, his senior economic advisers, as well as Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, resigned. An atmosphere of bandwagon resignations from the Cabinet filled the air.

The following day, Villar, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Sen. Anna Dominique Coseteng resigned from LAMP.

Powerful blow

The withdrawal of the two leaders of Congress on the same day delivered a powerful blow to Estrada and widened the cracks on the wall of the coalition.

These resignations encouraged the rebellion in the House. Sensitive to the developments in the streets, congressmen were considering their reelection chances in May 2001 should they decide to stay with Estrada.

On Nov. 13, Villar, having tucked sufficient signatures to the impeachment complaint, swiftly transmitted it to the Senate in a controversial action that was nevertheless stunning in its speed, catching Estrada's allies in the House by surprise.

Although the LAMP was in disarray, Estrada's forces quickly retaliated by ousting Villar as Speaker and Drilon as Senate President.

However, the damage had been done. The LAMP failed to halt the assault that breached it, allowing the revolting members of Congress to steer the impeachment complaint toward the Senate.

Conclusion

The conclusion we derive from the crumbling of the coalition is that the party system had been so undermined by Estrada, who rode to power mainly on his charisma. When he needed the coalition to shore up his defense against impeachment, it gave way to pressure from members of Congress who were at the time already smelling the odor of Estrada's political death.

The House members, who have more direct links to their grass-roots electorates, were more sensitive to the pulse of the people than the senators.

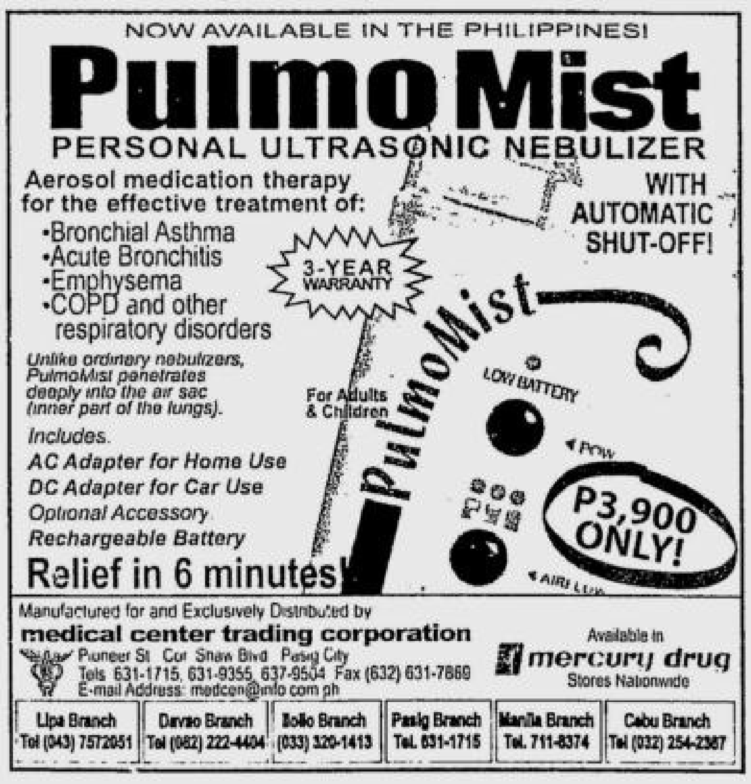
In the trial, the House, as an institution, took the role of prosecutor and the Senate that of the judge. Congress was a house divided in their roles.

But the division also ran deep inside the Senate where, as we had seen, Estrada's allies had a thin majority. At the very least, these divisions exposed the fractures not only in the legislature but also in the majority coalition.

LAMP's life as a coalition either to facilitate reform legislation or to defend the President ended with the referral of the impeachment complaint to the Senate.

Thus, when Pimentel and Belmonte delivered their valedictories last week, they had different perspectives of their historic role in the impeachment trial that produced its own heroes and villains.

The Senate failed to live up to its tradition of independence.



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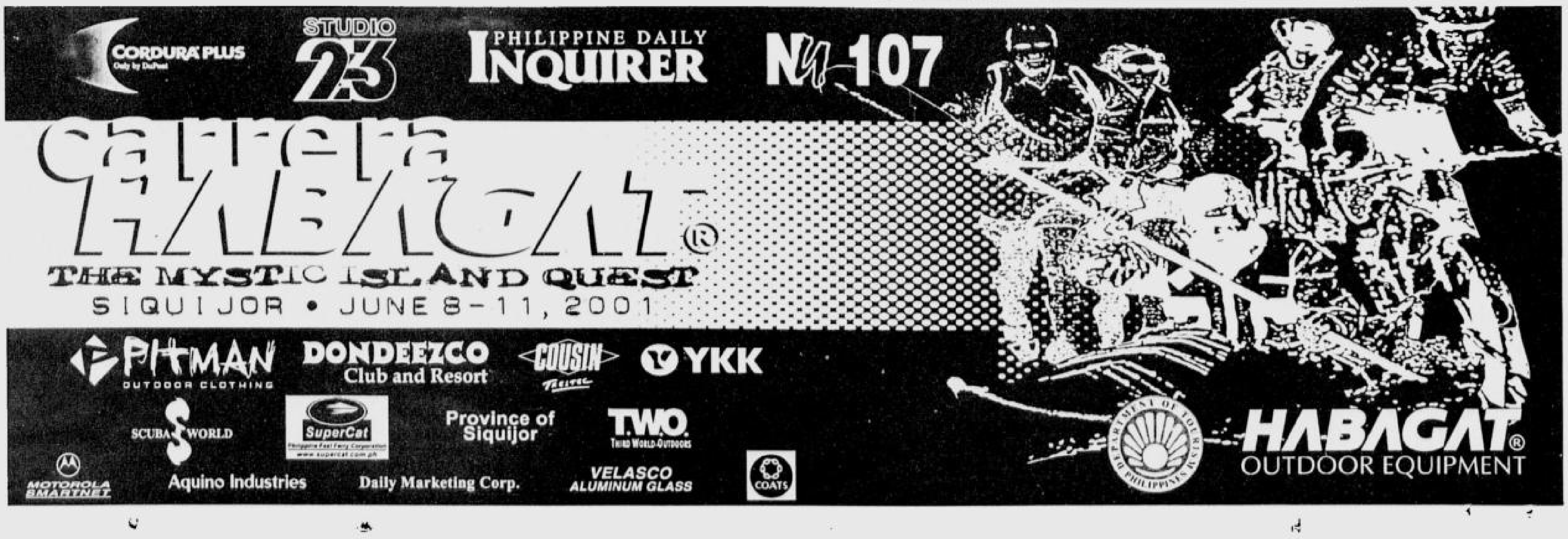

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Canvassing of contested Mindanao votes starts

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE CANVASSING of votes for the May 14 senatorial race resumes today with the focus shifting back to nine Maguindanao municipalities and one Lanao del Norte town where 115,192 votes for administration Sen. Ralph Recto are being questioned by the opposition Puwersa ng Masa.

The tabulation in Manila of the municipal results for Lanao del Sur, meanwhile, is expected to drag on another three days.

The 285,000 votes expected from the latter province are large enough to affect the standings of Senators Luisa Ejercito, Recto and Gregorio Honasan, who are ranked 11th to 13th in the tally.

Also anxiously awaited is how the National Board of Canvassers, or the Commission on Elections en banc, would resolve twin petitions filed on behalf of Ejercito.

Rufus Rodriguez, Ejercito's lawyer, had asked the NBC to retrieve the statements of votes by precinct and the certificates of canvass in 10 municipalities in Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte.

Rodriguez yesterday said the NBC should resolve the petitions as soon as possible to give Honasan enough time to file an electoral protest should the NBC decide not to open the contested statements of votes and certificates of canvass.

Protests of this sort may only be filed within 15 days after the proclamation of a winning candidate, or until June 20.

The petitions seek to exclude the COCs of the 10 municipalities from the national canvass or the correction of the votes in the provincial COCs of Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte, as the NBC did earlier when it ordered 93,000 votes deducted from Recto in Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Norte and Sultan Kudarat.

The towns are SK Pendatun, Talayan, Datu Paglas, Mamasapano, Sultan Kudarat, South Upi, Pagalugan, Datu Piang and Buluan in Maguindanao, and Sultan Naga Dimaporo in Lanao del Norte.

Rodriguez filed the petitions several hours before the proclamation of the 13 senators on June 5, prompting Recto's lawyers to question the NBC's jurisdiction over the issue.

The COCs of Maguindanao and Lanao del Norte were among the 101 COCs already canvassed by the NBC at the time of the proclamation.

Romulo Makalintal, Recto's lawyer, and Manolo Gorospe, counsel for the pro-administration People Power Coalition candidates, argued that it is the Senate Electoral Tribunal that should assume jurisdiction over Rodriguez's petitions as the votes being questioned were part of the tally that became the basis for the proclamation.

Rodriguez maintained, however, that the issue should be resolved by the NBC as the proclamation of the senators was still tentative with respect to their ranking in the final tally.

Makalintal and Gorospe earlier said they would not comment on Rodriguez's petition, but the NBC on Friday ordered them to answer the petition in writing in a hearing set for today.

Australia denies deal to import RP bananas

SYDNEY—The Australian government has not reached a secret agreement with the Philippines to import its bananas, Agriculture Minister Warren Truss said Sunday.

Truss, addressing the Australian Banana Industry Congress in the north Queensland city of Cairns, was commenting on a report from the Philippines that quoted Bureau of Plant Industry Director Blu Umpar Adiong as saying: "We have an agreement with the Australian government."

Australian banana growers welcomed the government assurance that no secret deal had been made to allow imports from the Philippines, the Australian Banana Growers Council said in a statement.

"The entire social and economic fabric of rural and regional communities would be undermined (by imports of Philippine bananas)," said Les Collins, chair of the council's imports committee.

The Philippine government had made an application to the Australian government to export bananas to Australia.

This was seen in Australia as part of a simmering trade dispute between the countries, with the Philippines seeking to increase agricultural exports to redress its trade deficit with Australia.

Australia is presently conducting an import risk analysis on the banana application. Banana growers strongly oppose the entry of Philippine bananas on disease import risk grounds. *Reuters*

Murder suspect who fled to US back home soon

US IMMIGRATION authorities are set to deport this week a Filipino seaman wanted in this country for the grisly murders of his wife and three children in Nueva Ecija last April.

The deportation of cruise ship mechanic Danilo Afalla had been set for last week but the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the Philippine government could not agree on who would escort the suspect home—local or American authorities.

"That will be finalized this week. So we're 80 percent sure he will be deported this week," said an agent of the National Bureau of Investigation detailed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The NBI has been in constant touch with the INS regarding Afalla's case, said the agent who asked not to be named.

In anticipation of Afalla's arrival, immigration authorities have posted his name at all of their counters at the Naia and alerted their agents to be on the lookout for the suspect in case he tries to elude his escorts upon arrival, immigration officer Rudy David said.

Afalla, 40, is the main suspect in the killings of his wife, Aperacion, 40, and their children Cheenie Claire, 13; Mark Anthony, 11, and Michael Angelo, 5.

He left the country for Miami, Florida, the day after their bodies were discovered in a shallow riverbank grave in Bayombong, Nueva Ecija, on April 18, their heads bludgeoned.

Relatives told police jealousy might have driven Afalla to kill his wife, whom he suspected of having an affair while he was abroad, and the children.

A Nueva Ecija municipal trial court judge issued a warrant for Afalla's arrest last month following the filing of parricide charges against him. He did not recommend any bail.

Afalla was arrested by INS agents and US marshals near the Port of Miami in May.

He was cleared for deportation following a hearing at the INS Krome detention center west of Miami, the NBI agent said. *TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 11, 2001
St. Barnabas, Apostle

1st Reading: Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3
Gospel: Mt 10:7-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking-stick: workers deserve their living.

When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you."

Commentary

Today we celebrate with thanksgiving the feast of Barnabas, an Apostle who was set apart by the Holy Spirit to accompany Paul on his mission to the Gentiles. Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement," proclaimed the Word of the Lord often amidst very adverse circumstances. The gospel reading for today, taken from the Mission Discourse of Jesus, wants to honor this faithful servant of the Word and messenger of peace. He went from place to place and brought peace and hope to countless people. In faithfulness to his mission he explained, in his own way, the meaning of the gospel reading of today.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the example you have given us in Barnabas. We ask you to make us effective instruments of your peace in our time.

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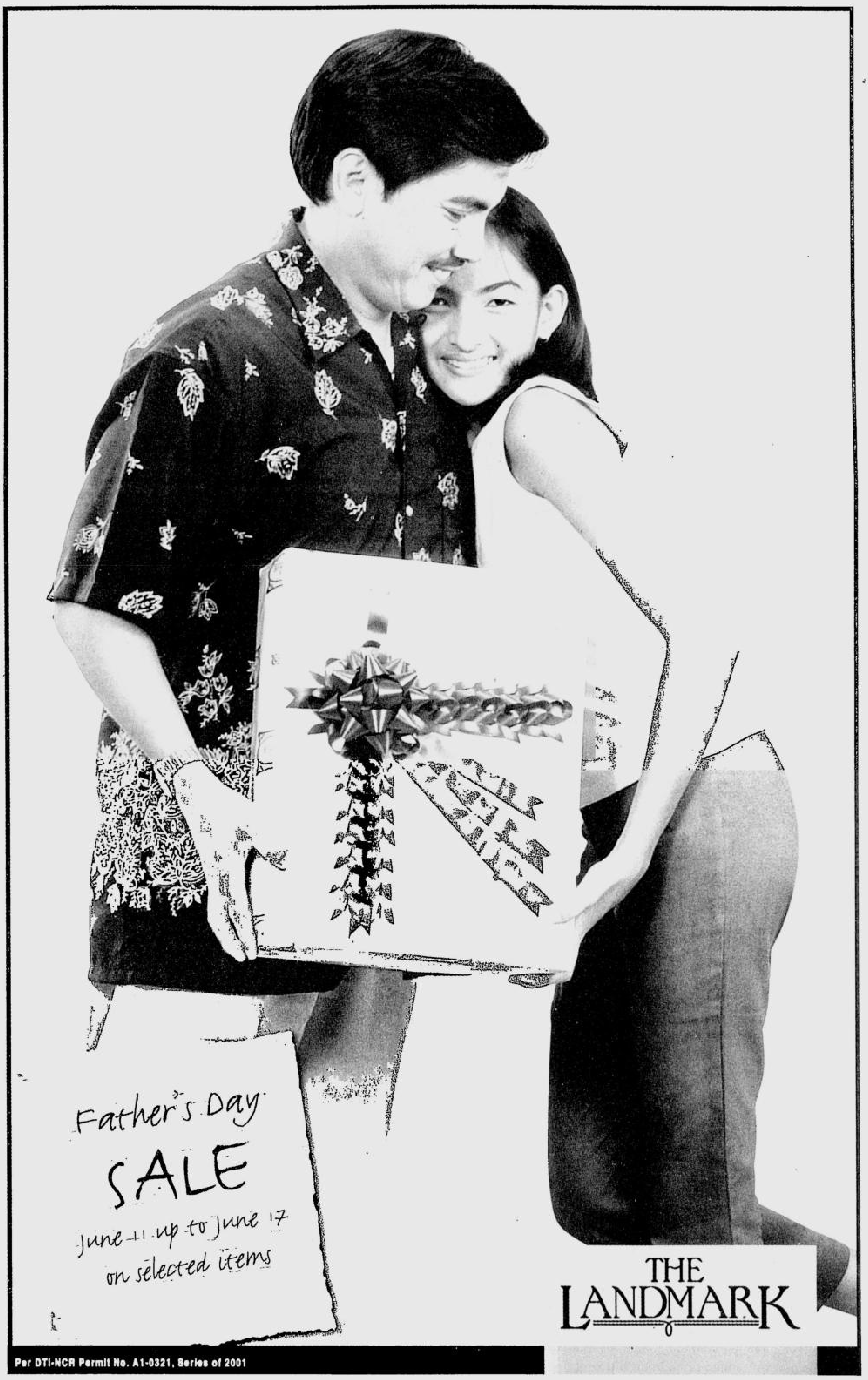
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Prejudicial question—A prejudicial question has been defined as one based on a fact distinct and separate from the crime but so intimately connected with it that it determines the guilt or innocence of the accused, and for it to suspend the criminal action, it must appear not only that said case involves facts intimately related to those upon which the criminal prosecution would be based but also that in the resolution of the issue or issues raised in the civil case, the guilt or innocence of the accused would necessarily be determined. The rationale behind the principle of suspending a criminal case in view of a prejudicial question is to avoid 2 conflicting decisions. In this case, the pendency of the civil case for annulment of petitioner's marriage to private respondent did not give rise to a prejudicial question which warranted the suspension of the proceedings in the criminal case for bigamy since at the time of the alleged commission of the crime, their marriage was, under the law, still valid and subsisting. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Te v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 126746, November 29, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera



OPINION

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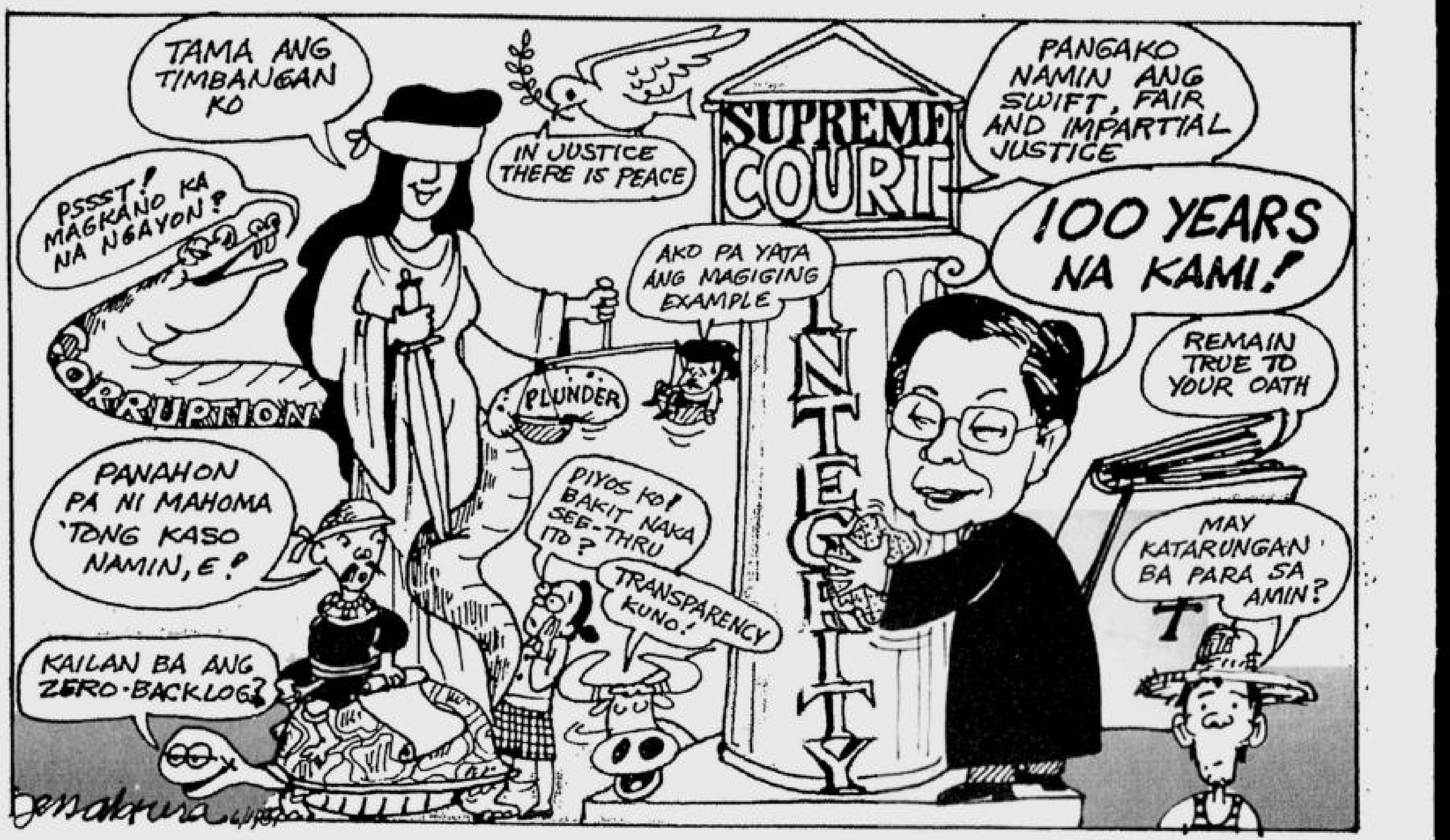
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INTEGRITY
REMAIN TRUE TO YOUR OATH
PANAHON PA NI MAHOMA 'TONG KASO NAMIN, E!
PIYOS KO! BAKIT NAKA SEE-THRU ITO?
TRANSPARENCY KUNO!
MAY KATARUNGAN BA PARA SA AMIN?
KAILAN BA ANG ZERO-BACKLOG?

EDITORIALS

Rascals in

THE "BASIC maxim of democracy," so the saying goes, is to "turn the rascals out." In the May 14 elections, however, that axiom was turned on its head. As exemplified in the case of Mark Jimenez, the erstwhile "corporate genius" of the Estrada era turned fugitive from American justice, the most recent polls were used by many suspect characters to buy a ticket to the sanctuary of Congress.

The justice secretary has made assurances that even election to the House of Representatives will not prevent the national government from executing the order to extradite Jimenez to the United States, once it comes through.

But already, a ragtag team of newly elected congressmen has volunteered the opinion that extradition would deprive Jimenez's constituents of their right of representation in Congress—implying that, in the Philippines, elective office can erase criminal liability.

The rest of the 12th Congress, as well as the Macapagal administration, should make short shrift of this argument. They only need to take a look at the characters behind the move, led by the new congressman Wilfredo Villarama, to test the shaky basis for this appeal. In late 1999, when Jimenez finally dropped all pretense and admitted to owning majority control of the Manila Times, he appointed Villarama as his newspaper's president. It is only to be expected, therefore, that Villarama's first public act is to press for Jimenez's exemption from the extradition agreement between the United States and the Philippines.

The simmering unease that the public feels about the election of the undeserving—such as convicted child rapist Romeo Jalosjos, to cite only one more example from Congress—is stoked by the fires of indignation and expectation. The public has learned in the last several months, through prolonged exposure to the blue ribbon hearings on the *jueteng* scandal and the historic impeachment trial, that the quality of the legislators we elect has a direct impact on the quality of our rather rambunctious democracy.

The events that led to the second coming of people power also led to a rise in our expectations; the depth of our disappointment at the victory of the indicted like Jimenez and the convicted like Jalosjos is a measure of how far our hopes had risen.

And yet there they are, safe—for now—in the halls of parliament. How have we come to this?

Rascals out

THE FIRST thing to realize is that it has ever been so. And we are not talking only of legislative positions, but all public offices, even appointive ones in the executive and the judiciary. Of the tens of thousands who run for or expect to be appointed to public office, many do so not out of the public interest but from the sure knowledge that, in the Philippines, any government post is its own reward. It brings with it a level of insulation against legal liability; the very fact that it is official is often enough to discourage litigation. In a culture where the word of the boss is often taken for the law, public office often degenerates into a private refuge.

But we must also realize that the recent elections, messy as they were, carried within it its own seeds of redemption. Having seen through her, the electorate wisely voted Miriam Defensor-Santiago out of the Senate. Anticipating her loss, the irrepressible Ilongga said she was planning to leave the Philippines anyway, having found the Third World "suffocating." In her 10 years as a politician, she lost three elections (twice for president, once for the Senate) and won only once. She should put that in her resumé.

Or consider Juan Ponce Enrile, a linchpin of the Estrada defense strategy during the impeachment trial. His campaigns for the Senate since 1987 have been cliffhangers. He placed 24th in 1987, and 12th in 1995, an election in which Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. proved Enrile had benefited from *dagdag-bawas* electoral fraud. This year, he was within striking distance of the last slot again, fueling concerns about more election chicanery. But the public saw through him too, and voted him out.

The basic maxim's a little rusty, but it still works too.

GMA policy: Pass the bill first, amend it later

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has just launched a stupid policy in lawmaking: pass the bill first and amend it later. She invested that policy in the signing ceremonies in Malacañang of the Power Reform Bill which authorizes the sale at bargain prices of the National Power Corp. to private business groups, mostly foreign. She said that public hearings would be held and that she would certify to Congress proposed amendments to the law. Instead of first crafting a flawless bill before passing it, she has reversed this procedure: pass it first, flaws and all, and then we'll change it later.

The President's statement is an admission that the new law is full of holes. Her assertion that it would be amended is obviously an attempt to mollify the people who would bear the brunt of paying the Napocor's debts.

But amending it to protect the people is easier said than done. As Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said at a *kapihan* forum, "Do you think the vested interests who pushed the bill in the first place will allow it to be amended to dilute their profits? They are so powerful and influential, there are so many lobbyists, they have so many legislators working for them."

And, may I add, they have so much money to bribe people.

In fact, the bill was passed with such dispatch and so much votes (only Enrile voted against it in the Senate and only 14 congressmen in the House) because of bribery. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank offered a total of $980 million in exchange for the Power Reform Bill.

They call it a "loan" but it is really a bribe. Or blackmail. Or ransom. Or bounty. "Pass the bill and you get the money. No bill, no money." It's as simple as that. Money in exchange for betraying the people. That $980 million is no different from the 30 pieces of silver given to Judas to betray Jesus Christ.

And the President and the congressmen and senators who voted for the bill are no different from Judas when they betrayed their people to get the WB-IMF bribe. "When money talks, people listen," goes a popular saying. I would like to add to that this truthful phrase: "especially public officials."

And that is why President Macapagal called Congress to a special session to pass the bill, called the legislators to Malacañang to twist their arms, went on television to tell lies about the virtues of the bill and paid for full-page advertisements in the press supporting it. And that is why legislators fell all over one another to vote for the bill. Imagine what $980 million will do to their pork barrel.

In fact, the administration has already won, the bill is already a law, but the President is still deceiving the people. She keeps repeating that the new law will lower power rates by 30 centavos per kwh (big deal) without explaining that the taxpayers, including those who don't use electricity, will actually have to pay more because the billions of dollars in debts of the Napocor will be paid with the taxes they pay. Your electric bill will be lower to attract your attention, but they will actually be picking your pockets.

The President deceives the people by saying that the P38 billion in annual subsidy to the Napocor would stop and "can" (not "will") be "used in building more than 115,000 classrooms, in irrigating 127,000 hectares of farmlands, in putting up 76,000 low-cost houses and in constructing 6,300 kilometers of roads." But she hides the fact that billions more in dollars (not pesos) in taxes paid by the people that should go back to them in the form of many more classrooms, irrigated farmlands, low-cost houses and roads would be used instead to pay for the Napocor's debts that the new owners of the Napocor should pay. Why does she have to sink this low to deceive the people?

Do you know that the people technically own the Napocor? The government will sell it to businessmen but the people will not get a single centavo of the proceeds. Instead, they will continue to pay for many more years the debts of the Napocor, debts that should have been assumed by its buyers but which are being passed on to us.

The Napocor is 90 percent debts and only 10 percent paid-up capital. The people have been paying for those debts. Therefore, the Napocor is 90 percent owned by the people. But why is it being sold to mostly foreign buyers at bargain prices without the real owners getting at least part of the proceeds?

Shouldn't the taxpayers at least get shares of stocks in the companies that would get to own the Napocor since they, the taxpayers, were its real owners? Coconut farmers who paid the coco levy have shares in the Coco Levy Fund. Subscribers of PLDT have shares in the phone firm for which they get annual dividends. Why not the taxpayers who paid, and will continue to pay, the debts of the Napocor? Why should it be only the greedy private businessmen who will profit from it?

Such an arrangement will encourage the people to pay taxes because the income tax return would be their proof that they paid taxes and entitle them to shares of stocks in the power firms. (Of course there are other forms of taxes but for easy implementation, the ITR should do the trick.) What's more, it would discourage them from cheating on their taxes because the bigger the tax you pay, the bigger the amount of shares you get, and the more shares you have, the bigger your annual dividends.

Even better, it would discourage people from stealing electricity because that's like stealing from themselves. And it will encourage people to turn in neighbors stealing electricity because these neighbors are actually stealing from them.

And, even if the power firms have to increase their rates, the consumers will not complain because, they will rationalize, the increase will go back to them in the form of bigger dividends, anyway.

Sense of country, too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I GOT swamped by letters last week commenting on my column, "Sense of country." Many of them came from abroad—from people who were studying abroad, had migrated abroad, or were working abroad. Some were bothered, some were skeptical, most were thoughtful. Today and tomorrow are a good time to hear them out, tomorrow being Independence Day, the day Filipinos were supposed to have become Filipinos. I chose the letters below for their variety. My apologies to the many others who wrote but whom I have not included here.

* * *

I wish to commend you for your "straight to the bone" piece yesterday, "Sense of country." Before reading it, I was one of those Filipinos raring to settle in America to escape the helluva of a life here. You made me alter my perception. (Nick Llave)

* * *

What you wrote in your column was true. *Ganyan talaga tayong mga Pinoy*. I remember when I was in Saudi Arabia in December 1997. Erap visited us in Jeddah in the course of his "Pasada ni Erap, Handog sa mga Bayani" tour, and made "*bola-bola*" with his usual "weather-weather *lang 'yan*" speech. Most of the OFWs burst out laughing. But I said to myself, if this guy became president, I would leave the Philippines. That's just what I did—I'm now here in LA, California.

But I did not stop being patriotic. Though I left our beloved country to help my folks in Tarlac by remitting green bucks to them, at least I am able to help the economy. Not like those senators, congressmen, governors etc. who have been putting one over the people (*ginugulangan ang taongbayan*) since the time of Marcos. Can you blame us if we think, "I'd better just leave the Philippines"? (D. Gatica)

* * *

Your column would explain to a degree why our nation is in the state it is in. But to say that only Filipinos have the migrating bug among Asians is not entirely true. Chinese, particularly those from Mainland China, are still leaving the country in huge numbers in search of opportunities overseas, despite China's growing GDP rate. The majority of Chinese students who study overseas never return to China upon completion of their study. South Koreans also have the migrating bug. They are fed up with what they feel is their country's poor educational system, particularly in the collegiate level. Don't forget that Indians, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis also have a huge expat community in the Middle East and United States, as well as in England, where curry has now replaced fish and chips as the official English dish. (Anson Yu)

* * *

You hit it on the head with this article on the current crisis that is affecting the Philippines. Most Filipinos continue to be mired in the belief that they don't have to do anything to make the country better, somebody else will do it for them. I keep thinking of ways to change this outlook but I admit I am at a loss. I've written scathing letters to friends abroad to come back because they are needed, but to no avail.

I myself have passed up several offers to migrate to the United States and Canada and been called a fool because of it. I am still here not because I cannot leave but because I think I can make a difference here. But it's becoming a distant dream, and I must tell you I am losing hope. (Marvin Ian Portillo)

* * *

This is my second return to America. I am an American by choice. I did return to the Philippines almost six years ago because my wife and I decided to raise our son (and eventually a daughter) in the land of our birth. I'm proud of our family values, and even though these are evolving into something closer to Western ways, I choose to believe that we still have something special when it comes to family. I practiced architecture and taught at a college.

I'm not here to "live America" or "breathe America." I'm simply making an honest living; saving some money so I can return to Manila. I'm officially on leave from the college. I miss my students. Some of them are here too, and like me are just trying to make a living.

We do what we feel and think is best. We choose the things, methods and ways that are most beneficial. We discard the old if the new prove to be better. The Indians embraced horses from the Europeans because that enabled them to hunt game more efficiently. I don't think that was unpatriotic on the part of the nations. Let's face it. We have been global since time began.

This sense of country is not contrived out of some conscious deliberate dogma. It simply results out of a way of life based on choices—collective or otherwise. (Henry V. de Jesus)

* * *

If it was me alone, I would have stayed in the Philippines and endured its hardships. But I have two kids whose lives and future I have to ensure. Making them stay in the Philippines, in my opinion, is a risk I don't want them to take. I barely escaped poverty when I was young, when the condition in Manila was not as hostile as today. I don't think my kids have to take the same harrowing route. I am not rich so my kids cannot expect much inheritance from me. But nonetheless, it's my obligation to ensure that they grow healthy, educated and productive. That's why we left the Philippines.

What I live now is far from perfect. It has its ugly sides too—I can see them every day. But the ugly features are far less than those in the Philippines. I am not a hypocrite to say that I don't want to return to the Philippines one day. But only if the conditions there improve dramatically. But that will probably happen beyond my lifetime. That's why as of now my only regret in having left Manila is that I did not do it sooner. (J.R.B.)

* * *

The Philippines as the only Asian country with an attitude of going abroad when things get rough? What about India and China? Of course, their populations are in the billions but still they comprise a big chunk of migrants in any country in the planet, including ours.

As to Americans not vowing to leave their country, well, America is a huge chunk of land mass. If the going gets rough in one state you can move on to another. Besides, Americans are too insular and inward-looking. They live within the confines of their own subcontinent and have no idea about what's going on in other countries. Otherwise, they would be just as mobile as Pinoys in moving out of their country.

If we Filipinos would only give our country a break and stop carping about "*walang mangyayari dito*," we would have a much better Philippines. We have this *penitensya* mentality ingrained in our consciousness, which makes for our masochistic bent. Journalists and opinion makers are just as guilty in propagating this masochistic attitude. (Vicky Donato)

GMA to visit KL before September?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

KUALA LUMPUR—A Reuters news report in the Sunday edition of the Straits Times in the Malaysian capital said yesterday it was not clear why the Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) is insisting that a former member of the Malaysian Parliament from Sabah named Sarno Sairin negotiate with the Philippine government regarding the fate of the foreign and Filipino hostages in the bandits' custody. The ASG gave the government until today to comply with this demand as otherwise, it said, the American hostages would be beheaded.

The question here is why the ASG's insistence on Sairin. Perhaps it is because Sairin had participated in the negotiations last year with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of nine Malaysian hostages captured by the bandits from Sipadan Island in Malaysia and brought to Sulu. A lot of money was said to have changed hands; it's possible that during the negotiations the bandit group became close to the Sabah group. One reason could also be that Sairin's negotiating partner, a Sabah businessman named Yusuf Hamdan, is married to a Filipina.

* * *

At any rate, what is surprising about the rebel demands for the Sairin-Hamdan negotiation team is that President Macapagal has already rejected this team as negotiator (a government "mediator" was appointed in the person of a certain William Castillo, but the name is believed to be a pseudonym), even as she has refused to call off a military assault on rebel positions in Basilan. It's also equally surprising that the ASG would insist on this demand, inasmuch as the Mahathir government has also rejected the idea of any Malaysian involvement in the ASG game. That government has said that since there are no Malaysian hostages there is no point in getting involved in what is a purely a Philippine affair. So the official line is, no meddling by KL.

* * *

To get a clearer picture of what's happening here, I called up Philippine Ambassador to KL Jose "Chito" Brilliantes, an Ateneo law graduate and career labor official who became labor secretary after Nieves Confesor was sacked over the Contemplacion case. With the escalation of problems with KL, Brilliantes was appointed by former President Ramos to this sensitive post in 1996. Brilliantes, who has known all my brothers in the Ateneo de Manila, was very busy preparing for the Independence Day celebration of the 40,000-strong Filipino community in KL, but he was kind enough to invite us to dinner last Saturday evening. Our top man here confessed to being at a loss to explain the ASG's insistence on the Sabah duo as negotiators, despite their rejection by both governments. The ambassador admitted that one of them, Hamdan, is in touch with him by phone regularly, but that he couldn't tell him anything new from Manila as the Philippine government's stand remains the same.

* * *

This columnist learned from sources here, however, that government negotiator Castillo, whoever he is, had called up Hamdan recently from Manila, pretending to be presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, and they discussed the hostage situation. Apparently, however, at some point Hamdan realized that he was talking with an impersonator and he got quite upset.

Some veteran Manila-Malaysia watchers like to speculate that the Sabah duo's role, as the ASG has insisted, could all be unofficial indeed, and meant only to strengthen KL's backhand in the Sabah area, where a lot of hand-strengthening needs to be done in view of the problems involving about half a million Filipinos who have settled or do business in Sabah. The Philippine claim to Sabah, which was made during the presidency of Diosdado Macapagal, has lain dormant for almost four decades and for all intents and purposes, Malaysia runs the territory as its own. It is said, however, that KL realizes that the Philippine claim is strong if brought before an international court of law, but that this claim cannot prosper for as long as there's trouble in Mindanao. It's a picture that is not meant to be too clear.

* * *

A clearer picture emerging here is that of President Macapagal wanting to strengthen the now more cordial ties with Malaysia. There is talk among the Philippine community that she is coming to KL before September, which means that this will be her first foreign visit ever since she assumed power last Jan. 20. If she should really come to KL before September, this would mean that she is singling out Malaysia as the first Asean country to visit, and that's saying a lot for the much-improved relations between the two countries. As Ambassador Brilliantes puts it, "Dr. Mahathir (the prime minister of Malaysia) would be very pleased with a Macapagal visit."

The Macapagal visit to KL, if it materializes, should not surprise anyone, as a lot of positive developments have been happening between the two countries lately. Her visit before September would come in the wake of a series of peace talks scheduled between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that is scheduled to commence in Tripoli, Libya this June 20 and continue three weeks later in KL. Recall that last March, acting security adviser Eduardo Ermita slipped into KL so quietly not even the ambassador here knew it; Ermita signed an accord with the MILF to resume the talks that had bogged down in former President Estrada's watch. President Macapagal has put peace talks with the MILF and the development of Mindanao as top priority, and it's easy to see that if the KL talks this July really achieve concrete results, then it's all systems go for the KL visit by Ms Macapagal.

* * *

Things have improved between the two countries as attested by Brilliantes. There was a time, though, he admits, when the relationship was so chilly one could catch a cold. Recall the "he's my friend" remark made by ex-President Estrada about Mahathir's former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, who's now in prison and needing an operation. Then, when Anwar's wife, opposition leader Wan Aziza Wan Ismail, came to Manila, she was slipped into Malacañang by former First Lady Loi Ejercito for a chat with Erap; then when Erap himself came to KL for the Apec meeting, Aziza called on him at his hotel suite. All these did not please Mahathir, who is known to publicly protest the appearance of foreign envoys or even their representatives at opposition press conferences.

With the scheduled resumption of talks with the MILF in KL, perhaps the Malaysian government is reassuring the Philippine government that the days of its sympathetic dealings with rebel groups in Mindanao are over. Recall that it was Indonesia who brokered the government's peace with the MNLF in the mid-1990s; but at the moment our huge neighbor has its hands full with problems. Malaysia, politically more stable and slowly recovering from the Asian crisis, seeks to wrest the leadership of the Southeast Asian region from Indonesia and its brokering of peace with the MILF could be the start.

Animal activists urge end to cruelty in Asia's zoos

FEATURE

Cassie Biggs

HONG KONG—A few steps into the Shenzhen Safari Park and you come face-to-face with a tiger. But there's no need to fear this king of the jungle: he's drugged, de-clawed and toothless.

Once proud and alert, the big cat is listless and indifferent as tourists straddle his powerful back posing for photos costing just 10 yuan each (1.20 US).

Later, the tiger, or another one just like it, rides on the back of a horse around a tiny circus arena in the southern Chinese park while bears spin flaming poles on their paws.

Elsewhere in the park, which says it shows off "wild animals in their natural environment," bears wearing wedding dresses waddle down a mock aisle, and elephants, when they aren't cradling tourists in their trunks, are chained up with only a pool of slime-covered water to drink.

Shenzhen Safari Park has been in the media glare since it opened in 1992 as reports emerged that wild stallions were made to fight one another in the daily closing gala, and live rabbits and chickens were sold to visitors to feed to the tigers.

Protests from the Asian animal welfare lobby forced an end to such practices, but the spotlight on the park remains.

Recently it was singled out by a study for the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED) as one of several private zoos which profess lofty conservation goals but whose prime aim is profit.

The Shenzhen Tourist Bureau, which runs the park, was unavailable for comment.

But conservationists maintain it has to use cruel methods to train its animals. It would be impossible otherwise to teach to bears, which are afraid of fire, to spin flaming poles on their feet, said John Wedderburn, director of the Asian-wide Asian Animals Protection Network.

"The management at Xili Lake Park (Shenzhen) know perfectly well what they are doing, but the audience generally has not the slightest idea that what they are watching is cruelty," he told AFP.

Forcing animals to perform unnatural tricks, or simply caging a creature which in the wild roams freely across hundreds of miles a day are both forms of cruelty, said Wedderburn, a former doctor turned animal activist.

But educating the public about animal welfare is tricky in a region where cats and dogs are seen as suitable dinner fare.

The quality of zoos depends as much on the attitude of its management as on the funds available, said Wedderburn, who over the past six years has visited dozens of zoos.

In southern Guandong province, PanYu Safari Park stands out as one of China's better wildlife parks. "The gentleman who runs the park has consideration for the animals," he said.

Several animal groups were invited to PanYu's opening and Wedderburn said he was pleased to see their suggestions had been heeded and improvements made.

Religion too, can play a part in how animals are treated.

"I remember once I visited the Hanoi Zoo and the Dusit Zoo in Bangkok on successive days and was struck by the contrast in the attitude of the visitors." The Thai people, able to express their Buddhist religion freely, were much more animal friendly, Wedderburn said.

However, Sally Walker, of the New Delhi-based Zoo Outreach Organization (ZOO) said even in India, where the Hindu religion protects animal life, there can be gross acts of cruelty.

"It (religious strictures) seems to apply to life only, not to quality of life," she told AFP.

Wedderburn admitted he was at the extreme end of the zoo debate. He would like to see zoos closed and the animals released back into the wild.

"The concept of zoos is flawed. We need rehabilitation centers, wildlife hospitals, conservation centers, not zoos where animals are on display," he said, rejecting claims that zoos contribute to education or conservation.

"Children don't learn from seeing animals in captivity," he said.

And he scoffed at the idea that zoos can save endangered species. "All that is happening is that nature is being robbed of its wildlife."

A 1994 report by the World Society for the Protection of Animals revealed only 2 percent of the world's threatened or endangered species were registered in breeding programs.

Walker was more realistic saying, "with or without us, zoos will continue."

She dismissed Wedderburn's zero-tolerance for zoos, saying organizations needed to work with governments and the public to effect change.

"Fixing things takes time and energy. My philosophy has always been to try and be positive and constructive."

Lobbying by Zoo has been the catalyst for a Central Zoo Authority in India, set up in 2000, and more recently a South Asian Zoo Association.

"There is definitely more awareness about animal welfare, but it takes a long time for it to really take hold," she added.

AFP

'Tatay'

HIGH BLOOD

Raul S. Cajulis

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

THE NORTH Star of my youth was my grandfather Felix Samedra Cajulis, the protector, provider and moral leader of the clan. He was so clannish that he wanted all his direct descendants to live under one roof. Tatay was the title his children and grandchildren honored him with. He was also everybody's Tatay, the patriarch of our small fishing village of Binakayan in Kawit, Cavite.

He was barely 18 years of age when he became one of the first student-scholars to the United States from the Liceo de Manila. He was accepted in Notre Dame in 1905 for the first two years of college. In his junior year he transferred to the Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois from where he graduated on June 4, 1908 as a pharmaceutical chemist. As part of his professional training, he participated with a research team in Leipzig University in the development of the small and chicken pox vaccine. Unfortunately, he was infected with the virus that left pockmark scars on the face of this young adventurous man seeking fullness of life.

He returned home both educated and accomplished but scarred. Coming from abroad he brought with him an upright 1898 Wurlitzer piano to show off and to get pleasure from. This piano had a piece of history and a memorable sentiment attached to it. On its keyboard Julian Felipe composed the Philippine National Anthem. It was also the same piano on which "Ang Bayan Kong Pilipinas" was played for the first time at the Manila Grand Opera House to commemorate the birth of the Philippine Commonwealth. In the late '50s, the *anay*-infested piano was sold to a piano tuner/repairer for P200.

Still insatiable in his quest for education, Tatay was among the first to enroll when in June 1911 the University of the Philippines College of Law was opened. The names of the first graduates in 1913 from the College of Law under the deanship of George A. Malcolm were engraved on the wall of the Palma Hall at the Padre Faura campus in Manila. Most of the graduates lived up to the expectation to be famous. A fellow graduate was elected president of the Philippines (Manuel A. Roxas, 1946-1948); one became chief justice of the Supreme Court (Ricardo Paras Jr., 1951-1961); some became senators, congressmen and Cabinet officials. My grandfather was the least known among them but he seemed happy in his humble obscurity, eschewing worldly trappings.

As a civil servant he started as a law clerk for the Internal Revenue Service in March 1914. At home in the evenings and on weekends, he was open for legal consultations to the poor barrio folks and settled family disputes. Out of courtesy, he did not refuse the eggs, chickens and fruits that they brought him as tokens of their appreciation in lieu of the professional fee. He had a well-stacked medicine cabinet that was like a public *botiquin.* People came to him for ordinary ailments. He dressed wounds and excised boils, sending them away with follow-through medications.

On Oct. 31, 1918 he resigned as chief of the Accounting and Income Tax Division to accept an *ad interim* appointment as provincial fiscal in Cotabato. At the end of his term, he moved to Dumaguete to teach Latin, political science and other law subjects at Silliman University.

By the time he returned to Binakayan from his stint in Southern Philippines, his classmates from UP were well established and most of them were working for the government as appointed and elected officials. He was approached by the group to join their political party to campaign for the candidacy of Manuel Luis Quezon for president of the Philippines. It was the first popular and democratic election to be held in the Philippines under the auspices of and patterned after the US constitution. The result of the election was a foregone conclusion that Quezon would win and there was an assurance of a position in the government for all those who worked for his election. Selflessly, Tatay declined the invitation and apologized to his classmates for he had already committed himself to work for Gen. Emilio T. Aguinaldo of the opposition party. He gave priority to his friendship and he sacrificed his own ambition for loyalty to a town mate.

When World War II broke out, my grandfather was no longer a young man and conditions during the Japanese occupation were no inducements for the practice of law. He went back to his other profession as pharmaceutical chemist. He worked as safety inspector for the Department of Labor and Employment to earn a living, but it was the practical daily application of his knowledge that I remember well. Our cleansing chemical came from a lye solution that he leached or filtered from ash and water and made to drip from the crack of an old *palayok.* He forged blades from truck flat springs and shaped them into narrow and flat shovels, *tulos,* we used for digging *halaan, butil and balay* along the shoreline during low tide.

After Japan lost the war, grandfather resumed his government service. In 1945 he was transferred to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to head the Prosecution Division of the National War Crimes Office (NWCO) which was created to collect evidence against Japanese officers who committed crimes against the people of the Philippines. Many of the convictions ended in the execution of Japanese officers.

The extended war crimes trials were the highlight of his career. Age like a strong *habagat* had quietly blown away whatever other dreams he may have had. I remember well the day President Manuel Acuna Roxas invited the Class of 1913 for a reunion at the Manila Hotel. It was expected to be the day to remember, a day for the famous class to celebrate its accomplishments. He told me that was a day that had a paradoxical meaning for him. But on his way home he felt proud knowing that he had nothing to be ashamed of. He realized that he had had a good life and a family to love. He had no regrets.

The last civil service position he held was as acting secretary of the Board of Pensions for Veterans. He retired on March 20, 1954.

Tatay died on July 7, 1956. My grandfather's burial was a final tribute I will never forget and the barrio of Binakayan will long remember. This was the first time in our small fishing village that a tribute to honor a dead man was attended by more than 600 mourners and friends, who formed a funeral procession longer than one kilometer. They came from all over the country.

Raul S. Cajulis, 66, was born in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite on Aug. 30, 1934, joined the US Navy, obtained a college degree and graduate units from George Washington University and has since become an American citizen. He retired from the Government Accounting Office in 1999.

Rogues' gallery, not Abus' promotion

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IT'S been 15 days since the Abu Sayyaf bandits attacked an upscale resort in Palawan and kidnapped 20 vacationers.

In an effort to speed up the recovery of the hostages and bring the kidnappers to justice, the government has offered P100 million for the arrest or elimination of the leaders and members of the group.

Last June 1, the INQUIRER published on its front page the photos of 16 men believed to be leaders of the Abu Sayyaf. The rogues' gallery was divided into two parts—those based in Sulu and those in Basilan, both Muslim-dominated areas.

Galib Andang and Mujib Susukan led the Sulu-based members, while Aldan Tilao and Khadafy Janjalani spearheaded the bandits' Basilan contingent. Some of the photos were grainy or blurred, but for purposes of getting an idea on how the crime suspects looked, they were good enough.

For a reader (with e-mail address at cindyh@yahoo.com), however, the idea of publishing the Abus' photos was unacceptable, if not abominable. Here are excerpts of the reader's letter:

"Congratulations INQUIRER for being titillated by and sensationalizing these Abu characters by showcasing their photos the way you did yesterday. What you did is useless now, and you know it, but you couldn't help it anyway and in fact your paper damaged the situation more.

"Human nature! Bozos! Now those characters will imagine they're genuine celebrities. Next thing, they will sign autographs and then kill a priest again. Again, congrats. Will the still level-headed few in your paper please get real, not real fans of the Abu characters?

"Everyone has his share of 'errors of their ways' but the INQUIRER erred and damaged the lives of many citizens now and in the future unwittingly. At least now, the INQUIRER is more responsible—largely responsible for the next killing those Abus will do."

From the wording of the letter, it is apparent the reader was angry, very angry, about those photos. He or she (but judging from the address, it looks like it's a she) must be so disgusted with the crime committed that even the thought of getting an idea on how the suspects look was unacceptable.

Information

The editor who "closed" the front page of the June 1 issue was not surprised at the strong reaction to the Abus' pictures. Since the publication some time in August last year of the photo of a mosque damaged by shellfire on whose turret flew the Philippine flag, the readers' reaction to photos that show the troubles in Mindanao has taken extreme swings.

Either the reader is repelled by the photo and criticizes the newspaper for publishing it, or strongly approves of it because it shows a graphic picture of the horrors that war brings to the civilians, especially the children.

So what was the purpose behind featuring the photos of the Abu leaders on the front page? According to the editor, it was to give the reader an idea on how they look so if a reader has any information about their whereabouts and is interested in getting a share of the P100 million bounty, he can coordinate with the proper authorities.

The editor added that the reward put up by the government will not accomplish its objective unless the faces of the people subject of the bounty are made known to the public. Besides, showing the picture of the bandits will make them less fearsome as the people will have an idea on how they look.

The editor pointed out that below the photos of the Abus was a picture of residents of Jolo, Sulu looking intently at the same photos posted at a wall. The interest shown by these residents prove that there is a dearth of information about the members of the group. The rogues' gallery published by the INQUIRER was meant to partly fill up the information void.

Whether or not the people residing in the areas where the Abu members live or camp will betray the bandits for the reward money put up by the government is a different story. From all indications, religious and blood ties are proving to be stronger than the lure of cash.

On the matter of the INQUIRER making celebrities out of the Abu leaders, the editor explained that the newspaper is very cautious that its pages are not unwittingly used by the Abu Sayyaf to promote its agenda. The group is not placed in the same league as the Moro National Liberation Front or Moro Islamic Liberation Front whose political goals are well known.

Whenever a description has to be made about the Abus, the group is labeled either a "self-styled Moro independence movement" or "bandits," which they really are and nothing else.

The editor concluded by saying that, contrary to the claim of the reader that the Abus will do more killings after the publicity given to them by the INQUIRER, the continuation or end of the criminal activities of the bandit group will depend not on the newspaper's reporting on them but on the ability of the government to put an end to its existence.

In other words, the messenger should not be blamed for the news he brings to those interested in knowing the events happening around them.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Creativity needed

"The government can't be limited to one recourse and if it doesn't have more creativity in dealing with the problem, it can't effectively ensure the security of the people."

—Philippine Independent Church Bishop Felixberto Calang on the hostage crisis

Basic rule

"When farmers forget this basic principle and become tyrants of the earth rather than its custodians, sooner or later the earth rebels."

—Pope John Paul II reminding farmers that using genetically modified organisms for higher production is against God's will

Still much to do

"It is the beginning of a solution but there is so much more that needs to be done."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo admitting that the power bill is not the cure-all to high electricity rates

True to form

"She's being true to form by being cantankerous."

—Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra on Commissioner Luz Tancangco after the latter did not sign the resolution of the National Board of Canvassers

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LETTERS

Stories too precious to keep

I WISH that I could personally thank all of you who helped in my senatorial campaign. Since I will not be able to do that, I hope you don't mind that I am thanking you through the Internet/media.

I write from the apartment of my daughter and son-in-law in New Haven, Connecticut where our family was blessed on May 30 with the gift of life in our first grandchild. She is a beautiful baby, all pink and bright sparkling eyes. Her name is Gabrielle. God has a way of giving us something far better than we expect or deserve.

I'm sorry that we didn't make it. As my sister Winkie said, "we fought the good fight, with all that we had. The beauty of it is we fought for a cause—a chance at better governance, a chance at decency, grace and dignity."

Victory, they say, comes in many forms and in its own time. And, indeed, we have many things to be grateful for.

For my part, I had the extraordinary privilege of working with so many unselfish people who contributed their time, money, food, transport services, campaign materials, media time, artistic/professional talents, office help, equipment and much more. Much more than I can ever acknowledge.

To me, everyone's contribution is encapsulated in the man in *tsinelas* from Las Piñas who pressed into my hand what obviously was hard-earned money—two one hundred-peso bills—refused to identify himself and said in Filipino, "Just make a better future for my children." Or the teenager who was not old enough to vote but who made a comic book about me and, with the help of friends, distributed them in the street corners of Cebu. Or the civil servant in Bukidnon who used half a month's salary to make campaign materials because he could not see a single poster of mine in his hometown.

All of you have a story to tell about the campaign, mostly inspiring and sometimes unpleasant. I wish you would take the time to write about it, not to exult yourself, but to record it as a part of our nation's history and your legacy to others. I thought we might share, or perhaps compile them because we often forget that our greatness as a nation is the sum of what ordinary citizens do, something like a jigsaw puzzle which cannot be completed until everyone puts down his piece.

These stories are the reason, is it not, why we continue, together or in separate ways, to work for our country? They are too precious to keep to ourselves.

Thank you again and God bless you.—**WINNIE MONSOD, 2304 Morado St., Makati City**

The sad state of public education

YOUR front-page photo of Grade II pupils at the Fairview Elementary School in Quezon City (PDI, 6/5/01) doing their schoolwork on the cement floor showed a very clear picture of the sad state of public education in our country. If the problem of lack of desks and classrooms afflicts even city schools, we can be sure that the situation is oven worse in cities and provinces farther away from the national government center. So, how can we expect our country to be competitive with the rest of the world?

The problem of lack of teachers, schoolrooms, books and desks, not to mention library and science laboratory equipment is something that grows bigger every year. Unless the government deals decisively with it now, the quality of our public education system will further deteriorate and this nation will find itself reaping a poor harvest of employable skills and talents that our industries will need to become globally competitive. Our public education system is either moving forward to excellence or farther away from that. Your photo showed the sad and despicable truth: we are going down, deep down. As to when this downward slide will stop, we don't know.

We hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Education Secretary Raul Roco and the 12th Congress will find lasting solutions to the age-old problems of our public education system. The nation cannot wait any further.—**RAMON M. GUTIERREZ, Block 79, Lot 35, Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City**

Thanks for military presence

MY sincerest thanks to the soldiers for protecting the people of Caloocan City during the May 14, 2001 elections. We were so afraid that something violent could happen because the political rivalry in our area is very intense. But I felt secure because the military was there. My fellow teachers did not know what to do without them. The soldiers made sure that the elections in our area were peaceful, honest and orderly.

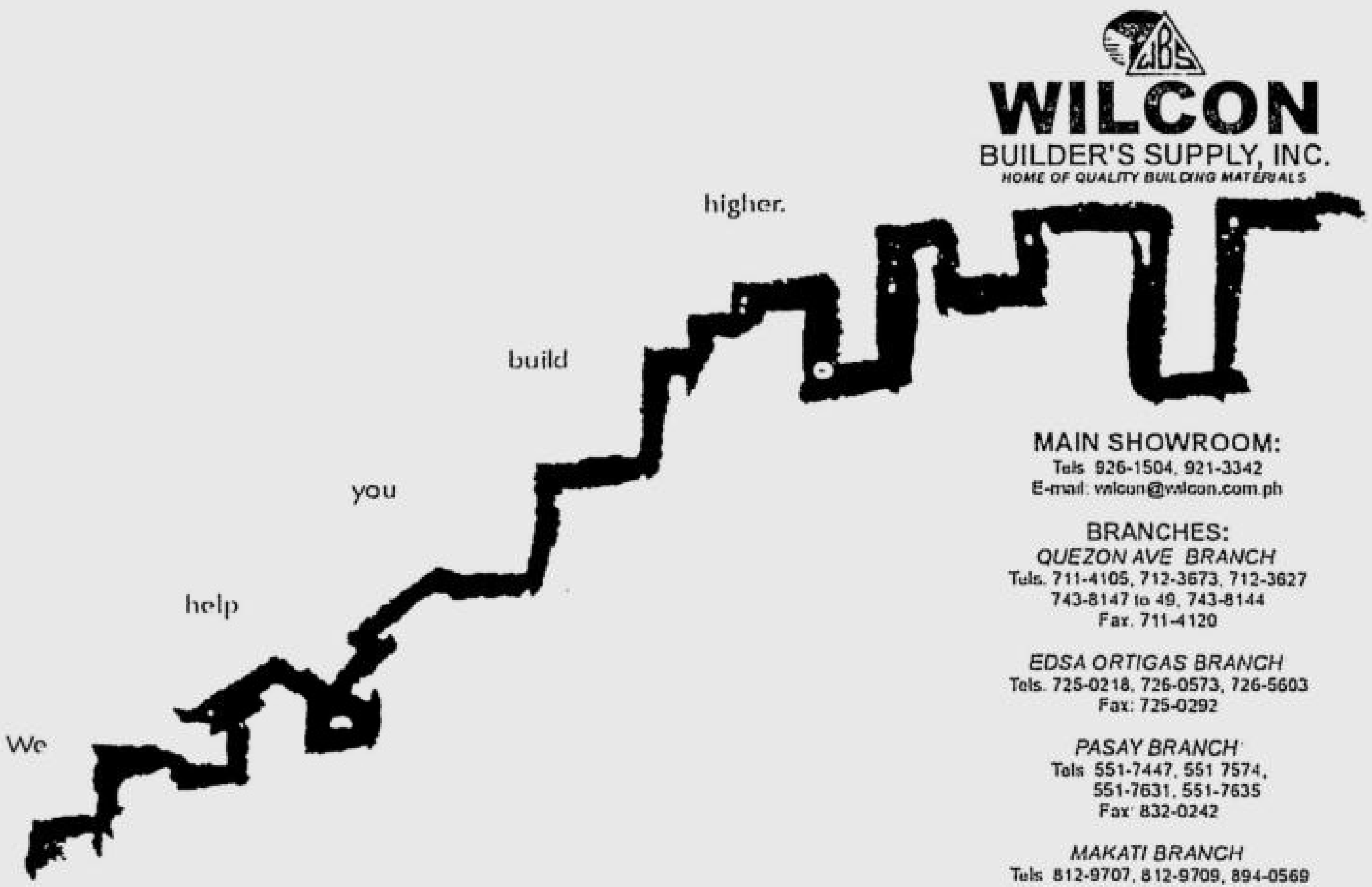
If the military was not deployed there, maybe some untoward incidents could have happened based on the temperaments of opposing candidates. Again, our soldiers did their job well. *Maraming salamat sa ating mga sundalo.*—**AURORA SINGLAT, Caloocan High School, Caloocan City**

Voter education on party-list system

AFTER THE PARTY-LIST conference and workshop held in Cebu City where Visayan media men—publishers, editors, columnists, broadcasters, news directors, commentators and reporters—participated, a significant amount of interest has been generated on the party-list system. We feel, however, that there is still a need to continue the education and information campaign even after the May 14, 2001 elections. The trend of election results show that it would be improbable for the parties, coalitions and organizations, to fill the 52 seats allocated for them.

The party-list system, being a major concession to the marginalized and under-represented sectors of Philippine society under the 1987 Constitution, still needs to be nurtured, developed and strengthened. Its benefits to the deprived and voiceless masses must still be explained so that it will be embraced as a part of our political process.

It is our hope that under the party-list system the youth, the elderly, the veterans, the women, the farmers, the fisherfolk, the handicapped, the indigenous cultural communities, the overseas contract workers and the professionals can be truly represented in the legislature.—**JOY A. ENRIQUEZ, Siliman University, Dumaguete City**



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Another GMA promise to remember

WE of the Freedom from Debt Coalition have only one question to ask of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo: Will her administration's perceived desperate need for money from the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank compel her to succumb to the shameless greed of independent power producers and private utilities, denying us a just and lasting solution to the problems of the power sector?

From the very start, the FDC has actively engaged government on the controversial provisions of the Power Reform Bill. For nearly three years we have closely monitored the various changes in the bill's provisions. Throughout the whole process, we, together with other civil society groups present here today, have consistently raised our objections and put forward concrete alternatives. Sad to say, however, that Ms Macapagal's administration may only prove to be like previous governments—unable and unwilling to listen.

The latest (May 4) version of the bill by the bicameral committee clearly shows that it did not significantly depart from the February Erap version that the President faced at the start of her administration. Many critical and crucial changes being proposed by the President herself have yet to be integrated by Congress. What compromises will the President make in order to get the bill passed, and on that basis, get hold of $950 million of borrowed funds? In the end, will money matter more than reforms? Will any power bill do, even one that will favor the already rich and powerful, against the larger interest of the consuming public?

The President recently appeared on television promising us that the passage of the power bill would bring down the cost of electricity, already the second highest in Asia. We beg to disagree. This may be wishful thinking on the part of the President, but thus far, the May 4 bicam version of the bill remains unacceptable.

The bill condones the existing, contracts with the IPPs. Instead of reviewing these contracts and consequently renegotiating and rescinding those found to be onerous, the legislators have chosen to implicitly honor these contracts. As long as government honors these onerous contracts, power rates will not fall. The bill actually encourages monopoly instead of market competition that it supposedly espouses. There is no absolute ban on cross-ownership between distribution on generation sectors. In fact, the bill allows owners of distribution companies to be owners of generation firms, a provision that is highly favorable to the giants in the industry, particularly to the Lopezes and the Aboitizes. Distribution utilities are allowed to recover their stranded costs and pass on the burden to the consumers through a universal charge.

The next few days will demonstrate to us whether need and greed for money will prevail over what is right and just. We were not fooled by the promises of Congress, including then Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, that oil deregulation would bring down the prices of gasoline and usher petroleum products. We refuse to be fooled once again. The President has made another promise that the people will not forget, especially come 2004.—**MA. TERESA DIOKNO-PASCUAL, president, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., Central District, Quezon City**

Why not privatize Malacañang, Congress, etc.?

THE BASIC assumption in the move to privatize the National Power Corp. is that private corporations are more trustworthy than our government in the ownership and operation of our national assets.

That the Napocor, which is owned by the government, has been blamed for: (1) the huge debts incurred by the Napocor, (2) the high cost of local power, and (3) gross inefficiency. If privatized, the argument goes, the Napocor will recover its financial health and become efficient.

If these assumptions are correct, if the private sector is really more reliable and more capable than the government, why don't we privatize Malacañang, Congress and the judiciary and place all our national assets and our national destiny in private hands?

Since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and apparently the majority in Congress appear hell-bent on privatizing the Napocor, as they have done to Petron, MWSS, Fort Bonifacio, etc., why don't they spearhead the privatization of Malacañang, Congress and the judiciary?

If the government is that bad, let us abolish it. Perhaps, rule by the transnational corporations, the fund managers and the Makati Business Club is our national salvation.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Missing PVAO back pension checks

I AM a Philippine Veterans Affairs Office pensioner, the surviving wife of veteran 3rd Lt. Mamon S. Manduyog. I received my first pension check some time in January 1999, and was informed that my back pension checks from 1991 to 1999 would follow soon thereafter. I have waited up to the present but no back pension check came.

May I know what happened to the same? Are they lost or given to the wrong persons?—**MARGARITA KIMBIAN MANDUYOG, Fort Pikit, 9409 Pikit Cotabato**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

The WORLD

Prince shot mother first, blew off head, says paper

NEW DELHI—Nepal's former crown prince Dipendra shot dead his mother first, blowing off her forehead, in the killing spree over a week ago that wiped out most of the Nepalese royal family, it was reported Sunday.

The gunfire was so intense that Queen Aishwarya's forehead was shot off, the Hindu newspaper said, citing authoritative sources who were not identified.

A survivor of the June 1 massacre, royal family member Rajiv Shahi, said in Kathmandu on Thursday that King Birendra had been the first to be gunned down by Dipendra, who was so drunk he could hardly stand.

But an ongoing investigation suggested that the queen was the first to die, the Hindu said.

"Queen Aishwarya was shot in the head and in fact, so intense was the firing that her forehead was blown off," it reported.

"The next to die was King Birendra and he was shot in the head three times and not in the neck, as was initially thought."

Nepal's new queen, Komal, received a bullet in her rib cage. She is recovering in hospital.

Princess Shruti was killed when she was shot in the lower abdomen, the report said.

The late king's brother, Dhirendra, died from bullet injuries in his chest while Prince Nirajan, who also died, had several bullets through his body, it added.

Shahi, the son-in-law of King Birendra's youngest brother, had said that Dipendra first gunned down his father, then his mother and then seven other royals in a drunken rampage, before shooting himself.

Dipendra died on the morning of June 4, having never recovered from a deep coma.

A two-member official commission investigating the massacre began its final scheduled day of inquiries Sunday and is supposed to submit its findings by Monday to King Gyanendra. *AFP*

PALESTINIAN policemen gaze at the body of Hekmat al Al-Malalhah, 17, after she was killed by Israeli tank fire in the Gaza Strip June 9. REUTERS

Israeli tank fire kills 3 Palestinian women

JERUSALEM—A fragile Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire hung precariously in the balance on Sunday after Israeli tank fire killedthree Palestinian women in the Gaza Strip.

The deaths late on Saturday night were the first Israeli or Palestinian fatalities since Palestinian President Yasser Arafat vowed o comply with an Israeli truce aimed at ending eightmonths of bloodshed.

Hospital officials said Israeli tank shells killed Selmiya al-Malalha, Hekma al-Malalha and Nasra al-Malalha as they sat in their tent home close to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in Gaza. At least three others were wounded, two seriously.

The Israeli army said it fired three tank shells after its soldiers came under attack in three separate incidents close to Netzarim in central Gaza.

The deaths and funerals of the women on Sunday threatened to provide a flashpoint for tensions that have simmered in recent days as international diplomats scramble to shore up the truce.

Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden, which currently holds the European Union presidency, and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana were due to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for separate talks on Sunday.

Their drive coincides with a US-led peace effort, at the center of which is a proposal submitted by CIA chief George Tenet to both sides on Friday for steps to end the violence, including a six-week timetable for implementation.

Palestinian and Israeli officials said they expected their security officials to respond to the plan when they meet Tenet in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Sunday for their second such meeting in three days.

On a parallel track, US Middle East envoy William Burns followed Saturday talks with Palestinian officials by meeting Israeli oficials including Sharon and Defense Minister Binyanin Ben-Eliezer.

Israel Radio said Burns would chair a Palestinian and Israeli meeting in Ramallah on Sunday.

The death of the three women folowed a day of sporadic violence in the West Bank and Gaza on Saturday in which at least five Pahstinians were wounded as they protested against Israel's occupation and blockades. *Reuters*

Saddam assails 'smart' sanctions

BAGHDAD—Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Saturday that his country should prepare for "a new confrontation," in a fresh attack by Baghdad on the plans for a revision of the sanctions regime imposed on Iraq by the UN.

"We are on the eve of a new confrontation. That is why it is our duty to be prepared for it,' Saddam said during a cabinet meeting to discuss the "smart sanctions."

Britain, with US backing, has put forward a draft that would abolish the embargo on civilian trade with Iraq, while tightening a weapons ban and controls on smuggling outside a UN oil-for-food deal.

"The main goal of the enemy is to break Iraq's national will and colonize us with new methods and under new names," Hussein said, explaining "this could be through controlling Iraqi funds and by preventing Iraq from developing itself."

Earlier Saturday, an Iraqi foreign ministry official said Iraq no longer considers itself bound by the oil-for-food program after the UN renewed the humanitarian program for only one month as opposed to its customary six-month renewal.

"The UN has violated the letter of this agreement in prolonging it by one month instead of six," said Naji al-Hadithi, state minister at Iraq's foreign ministry, to reporters.

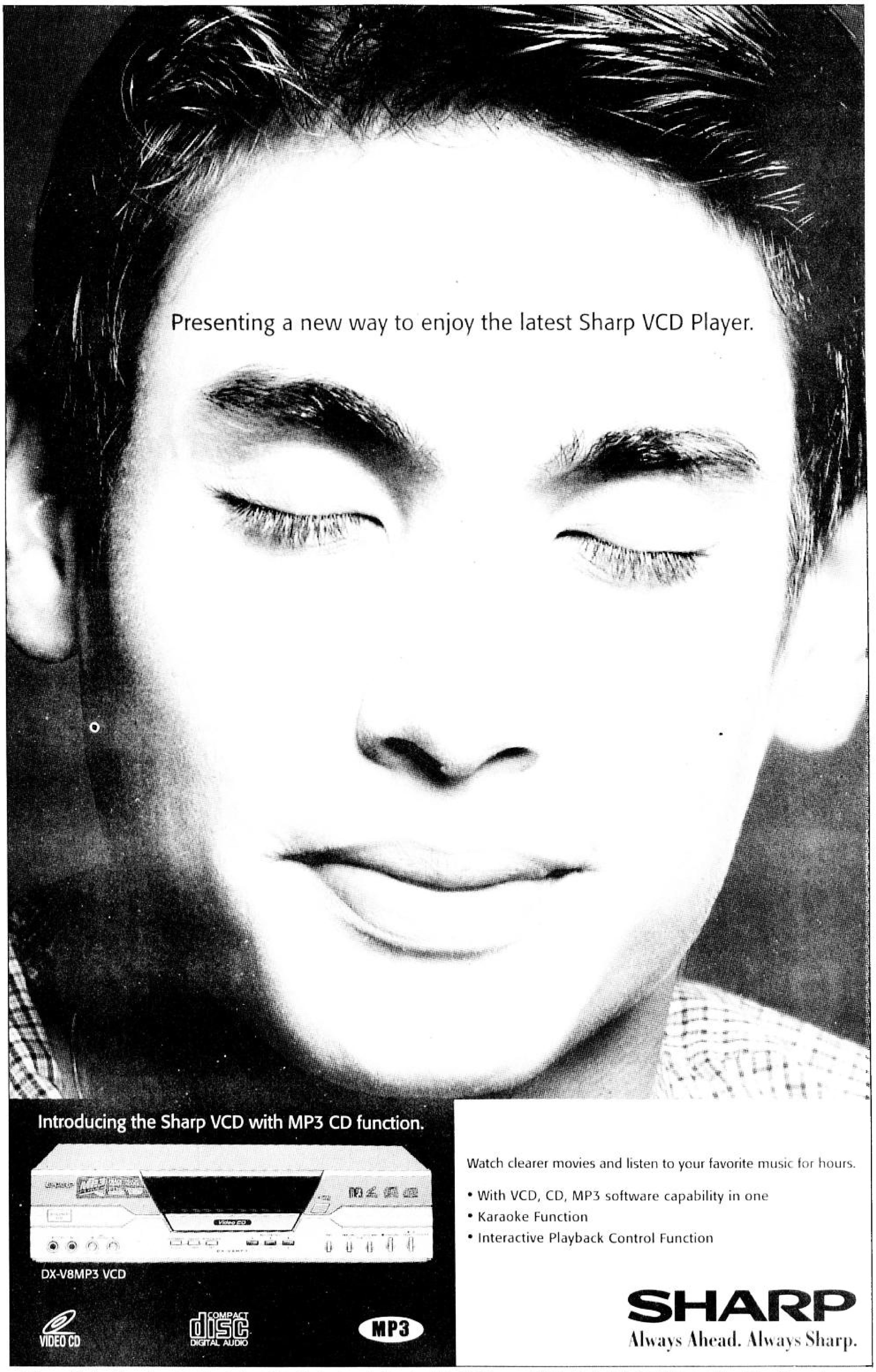
"When a party violates its commitments this means that the agreement has been broken and Iraq will act in consequence," Hadithi said.

"Iraq believes itself equally exempt as of all engagements within the body of this agreement have been revoked" by the UN, he said.

On June 1, the UN Security Council agreed to a one-month roll over of the oil-for-food program, while the council debated British and US efforts to push through a revised form of the economic sanctions, which have been enforced against Baghdad since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Iraq retaliated by halting all sales from the oil-for-food program as of June 4, which amount to an estimated 2.4 million barrels per day.

The oil-for-food program, in operation since late 1996, permits the sale of Iraqi oil under the supervision of the UN in order to provide humanitarian aid for Iraq's general population. *AFP*



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Koreas hit by worst drought in 100 years

SEOUL—The Korean peninsula has been hit by the worst drought since records began nearly a century ago, raising the specter of a fresh food crisis in North Korea, weathermen said Sunday.

"The peninsula registered the lowest spring rainfall in the history of weather observation, which began in 1904," said Kim Sun-Kil of the Korea Meteorological Agency in Seoul.

The central part of the peninsula was hit particularly hard by the drought, he said.

The three-month rainfall in North Korea's southern rice belt stood at 10 percent of normal years, Kim said.

In South Korea's drought-stricken areas, fire departments are distributing emergency water rations, factories have shut down and farmers have given up hope of planting rice.

Agriculture experts said up to 10 percent of crops would be damaged in South Korea. Vegetable prices have already risen sharply.

At an emergency meeting on Sunday, top South Korean ruling party and government officials called for a nationwide campaign to cope with the drought.

The drought also prompted emergency steps in North Korea, which has been plagued by six consecutive years of food shortages.

"No harvest is expected from hundreds of thousands of hectares of drought-stricken areas," the North's official Korean Central News Agency warned.

The drought was severely damaging crops, with temperatures in all parts of North Korea three degrees Celsius higher than in normal years, it said.

The North posted a 15 percent fall in agricultural output last year, forcing the famine-hit country to live on reduced food rations this year, according to South Korea's central Bank of Korea.

Aid agencies have warned that North Korea faces serious new food shortages this year, forcing the country into even greater reliance on international aid.

The World Food Program director (WFP) in North Korea said last month that most of the North's 22 million population is now surviving on a fistful of rice or cereal each day.

The WFP has been feeding around eight million North Koreans since 1996, mainly children and the elderly. It has appealed for 810,000 tons of international food aid this year. *AFP*

Victorious Khatami pledges Iran reforms

TEHRAN—Iranian President Mohammad Khatami faces the task of overcoming vigorous hardline opposition to his liberal reforms after winning a second term with a huge mandate of about 77 percent of the vote.

Khatami received 21.7 million of the total 28.2 million votes cast in Friday's polls, final official figures released on Saturday showed.

Khatami's share of the vote was bigger than in his surprise landslide in 1997, when he received 69.1 percent of all votes.

His nearest rival, conservative former Labor Minister Ahmad Tavakoli, came a distant second with 4.4 million votes.

The turnout represented 67 percent of an electorate of about 42 million, down from 83 percent in 1997.

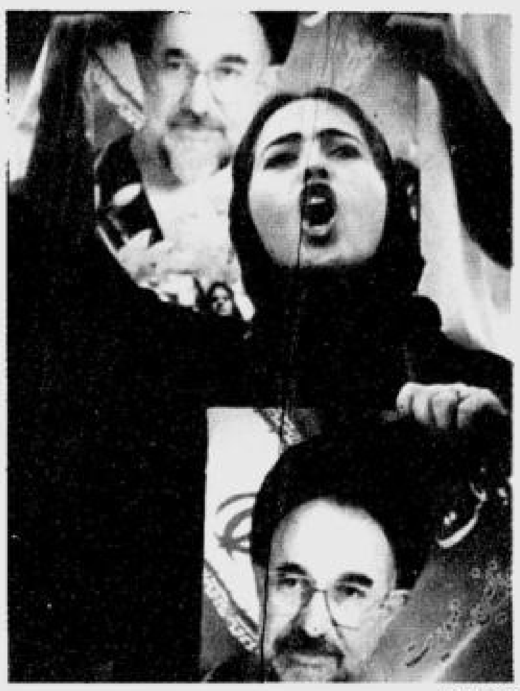
Thousands of youthful supporters ignored a heavy show of force by the hardline-led police to celebrate Khatami's victory on streets across the capital.

In a message read on state media, Khatami said his first priority was to foster democracy, but he added that "principles should be coupled with patience, moderation and prudence."

"Now the honorable Iranian nation, as winner of this contest, is determined in its just demands and expects the government and the system to take bigger steps to fulfil them," Khatami said.

"Freedom of speech, criticism and even protest within the law...is the precondition for quicker victory," he said.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei congratulated Khatami on his reelection and called on the country's feuding factions to close ranks after the end of the contest. *Reuters*



REUTERS

GIRL sings praises to Khatami after the polls.

Doomed McVeigh says he's sorry

TERRE HAUTE, Ind.—Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, scheduled to die within 48 hours for the worst act of terrorism on US soil, is "sorry people had to lose their lives" in the blast, the Buffalo News will report on Sunday, quoting his recent letters to two reporters.

McVeigh, who had been unrepentant through his trial, his appeals and the countdown to his once-delayed execution, maintained that the deaths of 168 people in the 1995 blast that gutted a federal office building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were "a legitimate tactic" in his personal war against the US government.

But in prison letters that the newspaper describes as recent, McVeigh wrote: "I am sorry these people had to lose their lives."

He continued: "But that's the nature of the beast. It's understood going in what the human toll will be."

The letters were addressed to reporters Dan Herbeck and Lou Michel, authors of a book based on prison interviews with McVeigh, who grew up near Buffalo, New York. He first admitted responsibility for the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, bombing in Herbeck and Michel's book.

Hundreds of police patrolled the roads and a river outside the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, on Saturday as McVeigh, apparently resigned to the inevitable, waited to be executed in less than 48 hours.

Prison officials said they planned to move the 33-year-old decorated Gulf War veteran within hours to a stark cell in the windowless death house on the prison grounds, steps from the room where he will be put to death.

CNN quoted one of his lawyers as saying he was spending part of the day saying goodbye to his family in telephone calls, presumably including one to his father, Bill. *Reuters*

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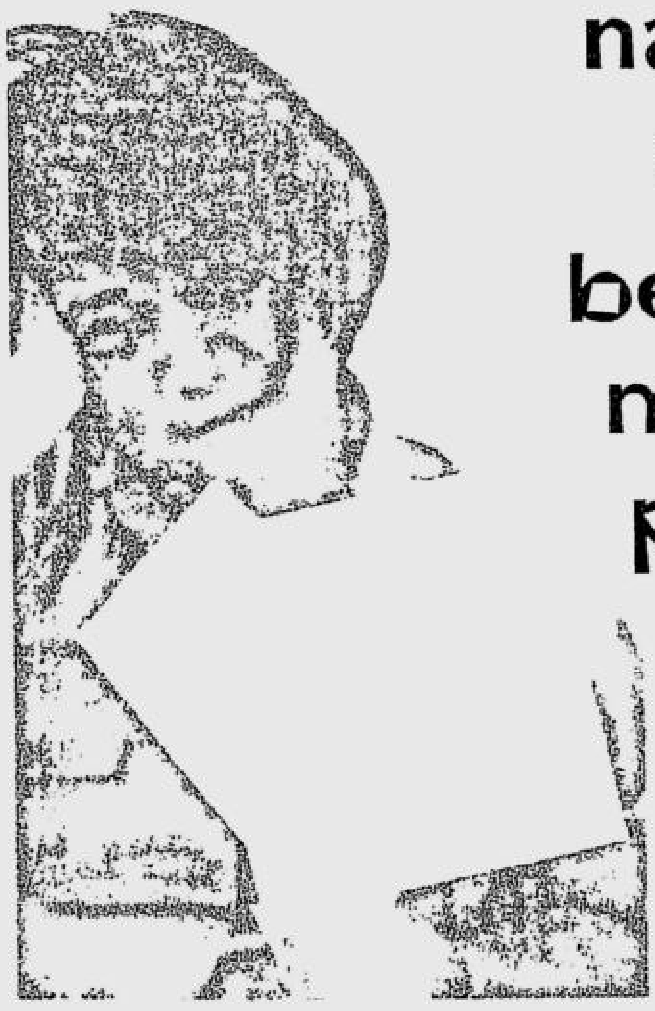

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Japan slays possibly planned, say police

REUTERS

RELATIVES and schoolmates of slain child Rena Yamashita weep as they pray in a farewell at a funeral rite in Takarakuza, a neighboring city of Ikeda June 10. Eight pupils were killed in a brutal massacre at Ikeda elementary school on Friday that shocked Japan, once proud of its record of safety.

IKEDA, Japan—The frenzied stabbing attack at an elementary school in which eight children died may have been premeditated rather than a spontaneous act, police said Sunday.

"The capacity to plan, which is reflected in preparing for the crime by buying a knife and his (the suspect's) remarks saying he committed the crime spontaneously are contradictory," said an Osaka Prefectural Police official who declined to be named.

Mamoru Takuma, 37, a diagnosed schizophrenic, who was being treated as an outpatient af a psychiatric hospital until May 24, ran amok with a butcher's knife in Ikeda elementary school near Osaka Friday morning, killing eight children aged between six and eight.

"Our focus is whether he was capable of judging whether the crime he committed was right or wrong," the official said.

Japan's penal code provides that charges be reduced or dropped if the offender is proven to be mentally incapable of taking criminal responsibility.

The mass killing, which has stunned the nation, was the country's worst since the Aum Supreme Truth sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway in 1995 in which 12 died.

The funerals of some of the victims were being held Sunday. Fifteen other people—13 children and two teachers—were injured, and seven of them remained in a serious but stable condition, police and hospital officials said.

On Saturday police searched Takuma's home here and the car in which he drove to the school in an affluent suburb of Japan's second city, some 500 kilometers west of Tokyo, as it emerged that he was due to be questioned by police on the day of the stabbing for an alleged assault on a hotel employee last October.

Detectives seized 110 items as evidence, such as a knife case, a mobile phone, video cassette tapes and lawsuit documents, the official said.

Among the items seized, police found a hatchet and two ice-picks in his car which was parked in front of the school gate, the daily Asahi Shimbun reported.

The fact that the suspect had brought several lethal weapons to the scene of the crime led police to believe Takuma had acted in a pre-meditated manner, the paper said.

Police have also ruled out the possibility that Takuma acted under the influence of drugs, despite his admittance that he had taken 10 times the normal dosage of tranquilizers just before the attack, the Daily Yomiuri said.

Citing experts, the paper said it would take at least 30 minutes to one hour for the type of anti-hallucinatory drugs prescribed to Takuma to take effect on a patient taking them regularly and induce a state of stupor.

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Wahid vows to stay put until 2004

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid, battling efforts to oust him from office, on Sunday said he was determined to serve his full five-year term.

"I will remain until Oct. 5, 2004. I will step down when the time has come," Wahid told a congregation at a mosque near his residence in South Jakarta, according to the Detikcom online news service.

Wahid, the first freely elected president of the world's fourth largest nation, said he was ready to face any threat to his rule.

"I do not fear threats, wherever they come from," he said, adding that he would even face threats from the military.

"I will defend myself. Go ahead and shoot at the palace, because what I am doing is to preserve the unity of the state and I will not hesitate to take actions again violators of the laws," Wahid said.

Leaders of the military and the national police have openly opposed Wahid's plans to impose a state of emergency that would allow him to disband parliament before it can impeach him.

The leader of the national police, Gen. Saroyo Bimantoro, has also defied a presidential decree relieving him of his duties issued more than a week ago.

Wahid cited the country's founding president Sukarno, the father of current Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who once faced military efforts to depose him.

"At that time, he (Sukarno) talked to the TNI (the Indonesian armed forces) and said: 'Go ahead, you can shoot me, because I have been chosen by the people'," Wahid said.

"I too, will do likewise. How can I be less than Bung Karno (Sukarno's nickname) or be less daring than Bung Karno," he added.

AFP

US agrees to sell Taiwan 40 M1 tanks

TAIPEI—The United States has agreed to sell Taiwan at least 40 M1 tanks for $499 million to boost the island's defense capability against China, a military source said in a newspaper report Sunday.

But Defense Minister Wu Shi-wen appeared to deny the report and said that talks were continuing with the United States.

The Chinese-language China Times said that the deal, fixed in arms talks last month, would be carried out in five years beginning in 2003.

"The US has agreed to provide simulators and software which can be used for training programs in advance," the military source, who was not identified, told the paper, adding that the software procurement would be slated for next year.

"However, the US had still not given the nod for sale of Appache attack helicopters, the source said.

Taiwan hopes to purchase at least 30 Appaches initially.

The White House in April approved an arms package for Taiwan—the biggest since Washington sold Taipei 150 F-16 fighters in 1992.

But Washington held off the sale of M1 tanks and Appache attack helicopters and deferred a decision on the Patriot PAC-III anti-missile weaponry and the sale of destroyers equipped with the Aegis battle management system.

Reacting to the China Times article, Wu said that "on the items the US had not agreed to sell, Taiwan would continue to talk to the US based on the defense ministry's defense needs."

He added however, "There would not be such a fast progress as there are barely two months since the April military consignment." He did not elaborate.

The comprehensive arms package approved in April includes four Kidd-class destroyers, up to eight diesel submarines and 12 anti-submarine warfare aircraft.

The China Times said Washington had also helped Taiwan modernize its communications and command systems, beef up its electronic warfare capability and establish limited ground-to-ground missile capability.

A special US task force had been assigned to Taiwan for half a year to work on the modernization of the existing communications and command systems, it said.

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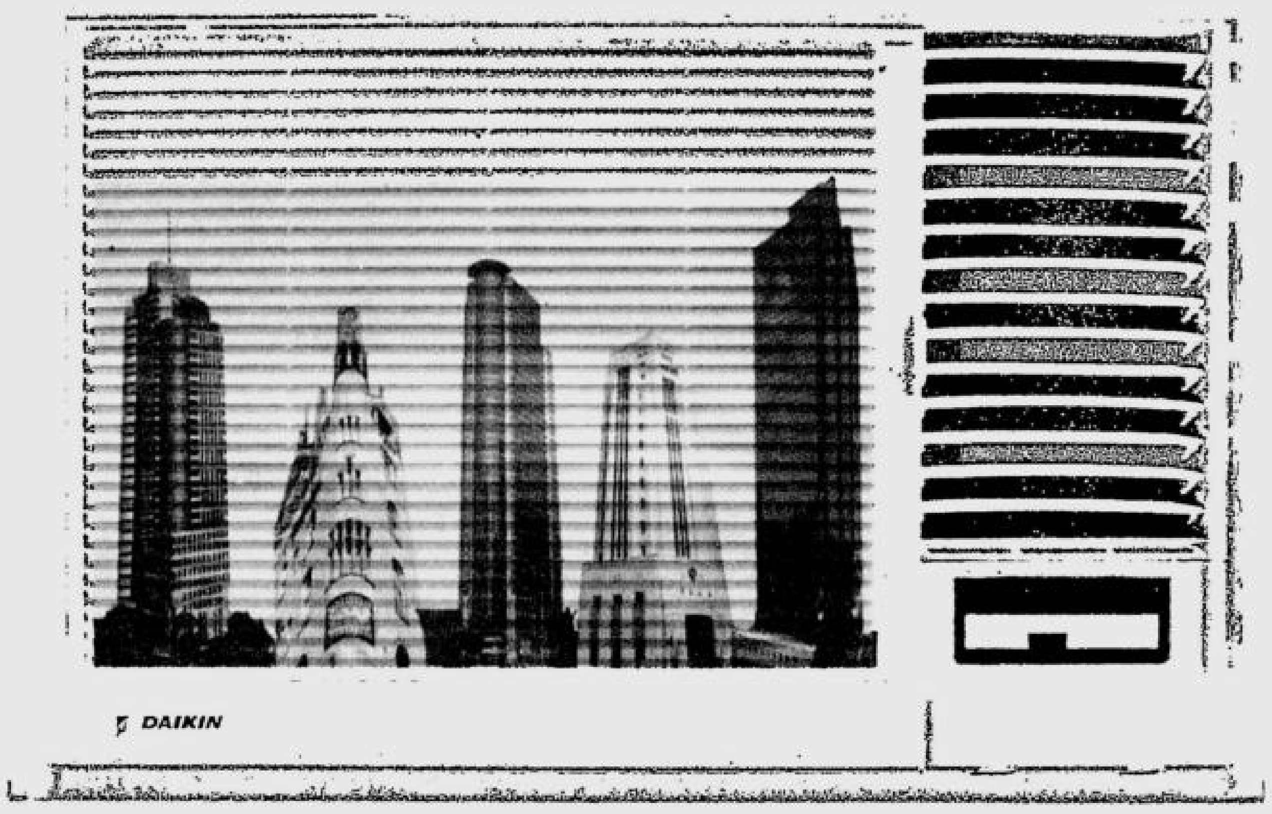

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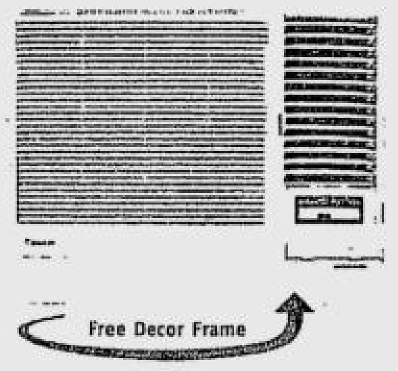

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Baguio uses own funds to pay for new teachers

BAGUIO CITY—The city schools board hired 49 new public schoolteachers and dipped into the city's coffers to pay for their salaries.

Councilor Peter Rey Bautista said the city government hired the new teachers partly because of the exodus of students from private to public schools this year.

Bautista, a member of the schools board, said the number of new teachers allotted by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is not enough for the 74,000 students in the city's lower grades.

"The DECS can only allot 12 new schoolteachers while we need at least 35," Bautista said. "And besides, the city cannot wait for the bureaucracy in getting them. The DECS allotment is still on hold as they are still preparing their plantilla."

Outgoing Mayor Mauricio Domogan, schools board chair and the newly elected congressman of Baguio, said the fund for the salaries will be taken from the city's one-percent share in realty taxes.

Bautista also said the schools board will buy chairs for students, again from the city's funds.

Late enrollees in public high schools have also been requested to bring their own chairs. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Elections just starting in Eastern Samar town

CAN-AVID, Eastern Samar—Nearly 3,500 voters in 20 precincts in this town are expected to troop to their polling precincts for special elections set here today.

The Commission on Elections ordered the holding of special elections in this town after over a third of the town's estimated 9,000 voters failed to cast their votes on May 14. Some 3,000 additional ballots were supposed to have been brought to this town on election day but the courier got lost and the ballots wound up in another town.

Eva Obon, municipal election officer, said the ballots and other election paraphernalia have, this time, been properly turned over to the board of election inspectors (BEI). She said she does not expect any peace and order problem in today's elections.

The elections in Can-avid will be crucial in determining not only the municipal winners but also the winners in the provincial race since leading gubernatorial candidate Board Member Clotilde Salazar is only 2,312 votes ahead of her closest rival former Rep. Jose Tan Ramirez. Reelectionist Gov. Jose Ambil is tailing Ramirez with some 5,700 votes.

Special elections are also set today in Barangays Mabini in Calbayog City, Jolacao in Sta. Margarita, and Canatu-an, Motiong, all of Samar province.

The special elections in Calbayog and St. Margarita, both in the first district of Samar, are also crucial in determining the congressional winner since only 118 votes separate outgoing Calbayog Mayor Reynaldo Uy from Paz Tuazon, wife of incumbent Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon. Barangay Mabini has 116 registered voters while Jolacao has 55 registered voters.

The elections in these areas did not push through on May 14 because of the refusal of the members of the BEIs to serve on election day due to the critical peace and order situation.

In Barangay Canatu-an, election officials declared a failure of elections due to the snatching of a ballot box.

The proclamation of winning candidates also remained suspended in E.B. Magalona and San Enrique in Negros Occidental, and in Buenavista, Guimaras, after candidates in these towns filed pre-proclamation protests before the Comelec central office in Manila.

The suspension of the canvassing of votes in Buenavista has delayed the proclamation of winning candidates for governor, vice governor and provincial board members of Guimaras.

In E.B. Magalona, all winning candidates have been proclaimed except for mayor because of the protest filed by mayoral candidate Rex Depasucat (UNA). A protest filed by San Enrique reelectionist Mayor Julius Lanzar (Promdi) also stalled the proclamation of winners in the town.

Lawyer Rodolfo Sarroza, regional election supervisor, said the canvassing and proclamation of winning candidates in the three Negros Occidental towns and in Guimaras would resume once the Comelec here receives a ruling on the protests from the Comelec national office.

In Capiz, seven losing opposition candidates have asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in the province's first congressional district due to alleged "massive fraud."

This was the first time in Capiz's history that the local opposition has petitioned the Comelec to declare a failure of elections in the province, said lawyer Noede Villareal, the opposition's legal counsel.

The petition was filed by candidates who ran under a local coalition—composed of the Lakas-NUCD, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC)—which was formed to put up a united front against Liberal Party candidates backed by Trade Secretary Manuel Araneta Roxas III. LP candidates swept all the top positions in Capiz in the last elections.

Leading the petitioners was congressional candidate and former Gov. Esteban Contreras, who lost to Representative-elect Rodriguez Dadivas by almost 24,000 votes.

The petition claimed that massive vote buying, ballot switching, substitution and manipulation of election returns characterized the elections in the first district.

It also cited as basis for the declaration "illegal proceedings of the Board of Canvassers and the partiality of some election officers." *Vicente Labro, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Vets wary of new bid to dupe them

BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Old and ailing World War II veterans here lament the proliferation of different "rackets" that peddle false hopes and milk them of their last centavo.

The latest was a promise of $20,000 allegedly being offered by the Japanese government as compensation for each of the veterans who were forced to take part in the Death March from Bataan to Tarlac in 1942.

The city public information office here received a news clipping from a daily journal in the Visayas with instructions that the journal be spread around, especially among the families of veterans who are still alive.

The journal read: "The Japanese government is offering $20,000 as compensation to each member of the USAFFE, USPIP and Philippine Scouts who were in the Death March from Bataan to Camp O'Donnel, Capas POW camp and Cabanatuan POW camp in Tarlac." The article asked the veterans to submit documents to a certain Consolador Parong with address in Taguig, Metro Manila.

It said "no fees" would be required. A retired Army official with a postal address in Lapu-Lapu City signed the news clipping. When the INQUIRER brought a copy of the news clipping to officials of the local chapter of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), they greeted the news with skepticism.

"We don't know. But maybe, that's only one of several rackets that target gullible families of surviving veterans. Most of us are skeptical of this kind of information," said Francisco Buhay, vice district commander of the VFP in Southern Tagalog.

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2. Customers should write his/her name, address, tel. no. (if any), signature and store/shop name (where the film was purchased) on any empty Konica film box (at least ¼ of the film box should be intact for the entry to be valid) and drop them at any Konica Photo Express / Columbia Photo Shops.
3. Participants may send in as many entries as possible.
4. Promo will start on November 6, 2000 and will end on June 20, 2001.
5. There will be three major raffle draws nationwide which will be held on the following dates:
   February 5, 2001 April 3, 2001 June 29, 2001
6. The following prizes can be won for each of the three (3) draws
   First Prize : one (1) brand new Ford Ranger XLT 4x2
   Second Prize : one (1) brand new Ford Lynx 1.6L GSi
   Third Prize : one (1) trip to Singapore (4 days & 3 nights) for two with hotel accommodation, breakfast and US$500 pocket money / person
   Consolation Prizes : 200 Konica U-Mini Cameras w/ free 5 rolls of Konica VX-100 (135-24exp) Films each
   200 Konica Pop Mini Cameras w/ free 5 rolls of Konica VX-100 (135-24exp) Films each
7. On every draw if a customer's name is drawn more than once, he/she will win the prize with the higher value. Another entry will be drawn for the prize with lower value.
8. Winners of the first, second and third prizes per draw will be automatically excluded from winning in any of the succeeding draws. While winners of the consolation prizes are still qualified to join in the raffle as long as they haven't won yet any of the major prizes.
9. All non-winning entries per draw will be automatically included in the succeeding draw.
10. Draws will be aired live on Eat Bulaga, with the presence of authorized DTI and CGPSC personnel.
11. Employees of Columbia Global Photo Sales Corp., Konica Photo Express Shops, Columbia Photo Stores and their advertising agency as well as their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join this promo.
12. Deadline for submission of entries for the three raffle draws:
    Provincial Entries : 10 days before schedule draw date
    Metro Manila Entries 1 week before schedule draw date
13. Winners will be notified through registered mail and will be published in national papers.
14. Winners will be required to present the registered mail and a valid I.D. (passport, driver's license, birth certificate) when claiming their prize. Major prize winners can claim their prizes at Columbia Global Photo Sales Corp., located at 129-135 G. Roxas St., SFDM, Q.C. Consolation prize winners can claim their prize at the nearest store specified in the telegram.
15. A representative of the winner may claim the prize upon presenting the following documents:
    - Representative's I.D.
    - Winner's I.D.
    - An authorization letter from the winner
    - Registered mail sent by CGPSC.
16. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Columbia Global Photo Sales Corp. With the prior approval of the DTI.
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ROUNDUP

Wall falls, kills pupil

MOALBOAL Cebu—A Grade 3 student was killed and two of her classmates were injured Monday when the walls of an abandoned school building here collapsed. Charyl Tapales, 8, suffered a broken skull and a fractured neck. She died before reaching the district hospital in nearby Badian town. Injured were Fritz Besa and Julius Balinguit, both 9. Nilda Abrenica, their teacher, said part of the condemned structure at the Basdiot Elementary School in Barangay Basdiot here collapsed as two boys climbed it. Tapales was just passing by when the walls crumbled. Her classroom is about 10 steps from the fallen structure. *Tonton A. Antogop, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Girl hurt in blast

COTABATO CITY—A 17-year-old girl was wounded when a grenade was lobbed at the residence of village chief Basilio Rosal in Barangay Rosary Heights-13 Tuesday. Supt. Romeo Almacha, acting city police chief, said the victim, Johanna Rosal, 17, was rushed to a hospital with shrapnel wounds in her face and chest. Dolores, wife of the barangay chair, said her niece heard a motorcycle stop at the gates of their house. She was peeping through the window when the grenade exploded. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao*

Drug pusher held

LEGAZPI CITY—Police seized on Tuesday illegal drugs and paraphernalia and ammunition from an alleged drug pusher operating in Naga City. Supt. Loecadio Santiago Jr., Camarines Sur police director, said elements of the provincial intelligence section and the 504th Provincial Mobile Group led by Insp. Alex Federico arrested Reynaldo N. Tindogan of Barangay Peñafrancia, Naga City. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

FMD-free islands

LOS BANOS, Laguna—The Philippines will ask an international group to declare Palawan and the Visayas group of islands foot-and-mouth (FMD)-free zones. This developed after the World Organization for Animal Health or Office Internationale Des Epizooties (OIE) approved on May 30 a resolution that approved Mindanao's application to be declared an FMD-free zone. With the approval, Mindanao may now export animals, animal products and by-products anywhere in the world. The OIE made the approval in a meeting in Paris May 27-June 1, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Theft leads to alert

COTABATO CITY—Lawmen in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos area were placed on red alert after police investigators linked Abu Sayyaf bandits to the robbery of a cellular phone distributor in General SantoS City last week. Chief Supt. Manuel Raval, regional police director, said police offices in Central Mindanao, particularly those near coastlines have been placed on maximum alert for renewed terrorism by the bandit group. The alert status came after 10 armed men last week held up the store of Rey Senoria, a mobile phone dealer in General Santos, who claimed he lost P645,000 worth of merchandise. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 26° Lo 15°	**Tuguegarao** HI 33° Lo 22°
Laoag HI 34° Lo 24°	**Clark Zone** HI 32° Lo 23°	**Tagaytay** HI 30° Lo 20°
Legazpi HI 31° Lo 25°	**Bacolod** HI 31° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 31° Lo 24°
Cebu HI 31° Lo 24°	**Tacloban** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Gen. Santos** HI 31° Lo 24°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/11/01

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Dagupan affirms 'bangus' capital tag

RIZA MANANSALA

BANGUS bounty in Dagupan.

DAGUPAN CITY—This premier city of Pangasinan, widely known for its tasty *bangus* (milkfish), is reinvigorating the country's *bangus* industry with the successful production of fingerlings by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Westly Rosario, BFAR center chief here, said the *bangus* hatchery established at the center, the first government-owned facility in the country and the only one in Luzon, has been producing two to nine million eggs monthly.

The establishment of the hatchery came after the government was alarmed by the rampant conversion of fishponds into areas for commercial purposes, forcing most local fishermen to buy *bangus* fry and fingerlings from Taiwan instead.

While the prices of fry and fingerlings fluctuate, BFAR will sell these to fishermen at 20 centavos lower than the prevailing market price.

At least 500,000 fry and fingerlings are now available at the center, Rosario said.

"We are ready to commercially sell *bangus* fry and fingerlings, and we are also providing the other BFAR regional offices which maintain their demonstration farms to promote the hatchery-bred fry in the country," Rosario told the INQUIRER.

He said 66 *sabalos* (mother *bangus*) are already laying eggs while 100 others are set to lay eggs in the coming months.

Another 45 *sabalos* from Iloilo will be transported to BFAR here in the next few days.

"Our goal is to provide *bangus* fry and fingerlings to (the) entire Luzon and other parts of the country in four years," he said.

The BFAR *bangus* hatchery has four tanks where *sabalos* are kept. Fishermen used to buy fry from gatherers in the city's beaches or from other provinces.

"Fry from Taiwan are also sold here," Rosario said.

He said although they also sell Taiwan fry, several fishermen, however, shy away from it because these don't grow as large as the native breed.

"What's funny is that we used to export fry to Taiwan, now we are buying from that country," he said.

Rosario said he refused to entertain *bangus* producers from another province supported by the Taiwanese and who only wanted to study BFAR's technology in fingerling production.

"They will just learn from our technology and export it to Taiwan. Because they have the money, they will again be ahead of us," he added. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Maid's kin seek help on 'blood money'

SAN AGUSTIN, Isabela—Relatives of a jailed Filipino maid in the United Arab Emirates asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to help them find money after their relative was ordered by a UAE appeals court to pay her employer's family $40,000 in blood money.

Maryjane Esteban-Ramos, 22, a native of this town, was jailed in 1999 after she stabbed and killed her Arab employer who tried to rape her.

Ramos' relatives in Barangay Masaya Centro appealed to the President following a recent decision of the UAE appeals court that overturned her acquittal for killing Mohammad Ali Alshamsi on Jan. 23, 1999, or two days after she arrived at the UAE.

Ramos' relatives said the $40,000 (P2 million) blood money that Maryjane was ordered to pay "is a (huge amount) only rich people can pay."

They said they believed that Ms Macapagal's intercession would help them bring back Ramos to the country.

Detained at the Mamoorah Central Jail in the UAE since her arrest in 1999, Ramos has already served a two-year prison sentence imposed by a UAE court.

Pedro Esteban, Ramos' father, said they were surprised when they learned from radio and newspaper reports that Ramos' acquittal was overturned and that she was asked to pay blood money.

He said they were expecting Ramos to be freed and finally come home.

"*Nakigtot kami. Dimi ammo ti aramidenmi. Dikami mamati idi umuna* (We were shocked. We do not know what to do. At first, we could not believe these reports)," he added.

Johnny Ramos, Ramos' husband, remained optimistic that she will return home.

"We are hoping for the best that the blood money will be paid," he said.

Esteban said earlier reports reaching them showed that three judges of a local Islamic court in Ras al-Khaimah, a member of the United Arab Emirates federation, found Ramos innocent.

The court ruling said Ramos, "aged 20 at the time of the incident and on her first day of work in the UAE, had acted (in) self-defense against a rape attempt by stabbing her drunken employer with a kitchen knife."

Ramos' relatives here are also appealing to Filipino businessmen and officials to "open their hearts and pitch in money" for Ramos. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

DENR warns against ₱300-M sports dome

DAVAO CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the city government must take full responsibility if something bad happens when the construction of the P300-million Artica Sports Dome here is finished.

Ma. Luisa Jacinto, DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) chief, said the DENR has already given a technical evaluation of the project.

"We can…do our function but if the city doesn't want our services, then it must take full responsibility," Jacinto said.

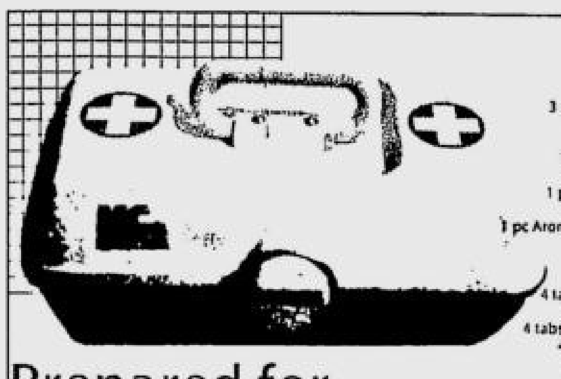
The MGB earlier released a study concluding that the sports dome is near a fault line.

Bienvenido Lipayon, Environmental Management Bureau regional director, claimed that the decision of the regional trial court to exempt the city from securing an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) could set a dangerous precedent.

"It might open the floodgates for other local government units to think that they can be exempted from securing an ECC," he said.

Last month, RTC Branch 33 Judge Wenceslao Ibabao released a 13-page decision ordering the DENR not to require the city an ECC for the project.

DENR lawyer Mario Duaves immediately filed a motion for reconsideration but the motion was rejected by Ibabao because he claimed in his decision that only the national government, not local government units like Davao City, is required to comply with DENR requirements. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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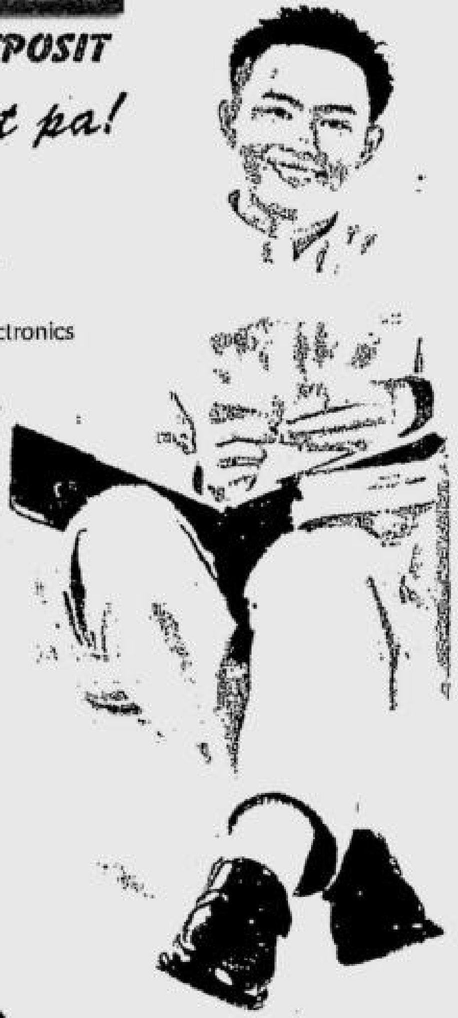

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See posters and leaflets for more details. PER DTI-NCR PERMIT No. 1232 Series of 2001

Probe set on delay of Casecnan canals

CABANATUAN CITY—Presidential Assistant Renato Diaz said he would investigate delays in the construction of irrigation canals of the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP) in Nueva Ecija.

Diaz, who was appointed in charge of the government's flagship projects in Northern Luzon, said he was surprised why not much had been done in three years in connection with the construction of irrigation canals in the targeted service areas of the CMIPP.

He also said he was surprised to learn that a big portion of funds allocated for the canal construction was transferred to another project in another province.

"Three years of construction and nothing much have been done," Diaz said, referring to the establishment of the super diversion canal that will convey water to farmlands in Nueva Ecija.

"There were mistakes committed in the system of pursuing the construction of the canal," he said.

He said the investigation would uncover the "mistakes" of officials who implemented the project. He also said the government would take immediate steps to resume the construction of the canals.

Diaz said about P1 billion of the P1.5-billion fund earmarked for the irrigation component of the CMIPP was transferred to another project in a neighboring province.

He said he could not explain why the transfer was allowed without objections from officials who were supposed to guard the funds.

"*Nandiyan na iyong pondo napawalan pa* (The funds were already here but it was allowed to be transferred)," he said.

Diaz, a former congressman of Nueva Ecija, said the government has earmarked P500 million to replace half of the amount that had been transferred. He said this amount would help in continuing the construction of the irrigation canals that will convey water to farmlands in five Nueva Ecija towns.

The super diversion canal extends to 64 kilometers from the Pantabangan Dam in northern Nueva Ecija to hundreds of kilometers of lateral canals in Guimba, Nampicuan, Cuyapo, Talugtog and Lupao towns.

The canal construction has to be rushed as the 26-kilometer tunnel of the Casecnan project is about to be completed.

The CMIPP is a multibillion-peso project composed of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) component and an irrigation component.

The BOT component takes charge of building the infrastructure for drawing up irrigation water from the two rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the reservoir of the Pantabangan Dam.

The additional supply of irrigation water in the Pantabangan Dam reservoir is designed to irrigate an additional 35,000 hectares in the new service area of the dam.

Diaz said the construction of the CMIPP tunnel and other infrastructure for generating hydroelectric power is now almost complete.

"We walked through the tunnel and we saw that it is basically complete," he said. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Aetas bid goodbye to American sailor

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—"I missed you," said Aeta tribesman Patricio Gutierrez, tightly clasping the hand of US Navy Lt. JG Scott Allan Washburn.

Washburn, standing almost six feet tall, slightly stooped to shake the hand of Gutierrez, who stood at only four feet.

Another Aeta, Rafael Pan, stood nervously on the side, staring at Washburn and wondering if he was really the unshaven, slightly dazed and rain-drenched man who knocked on his shack's door on rainy Wednesday night.

Washburn wore his white Navy uniform this time, which made him almost unrecognizable to Pan.

"I just recognized him from his smile," he said later.

With firm handshakes and brief, formal exchange of pleasantries, Gutierrez and his brother-in-law Pan finally bade goodbye to the US sailor, whom they guided to safety on Wednesday.

The three reunited with no tinge of drama at 3:25 p.m. aboard the USS Rushmore docked at the Alava Pier here since June 1, the start of the military exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (Carat) 2001 where Washburn and 1,200 American troops were participating.

Washburn rejoined the crew since Thursday or a night after the two Aetas escorted him back to the Sapang Bato gate of the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City.

The 33-year-old US sailor had been missing for 33 hours in the Pampanga foothills of Mt. Pinatubo after a large band of New People's Army rebels attacked his group of nine American and Filipino soldiers on Tuesday.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who arranged the reunion, eased the tribesmen's nervousness.

The reunion was set on the heels of the complaint of the two that they were not given by Philippine Air Force officials, who took custody of the sailor, to say goodbye to their newfound friend.

"Do you like to stay here (in the ship)?" Guingona asked the two.

Gutierrez and Pan shook their heads.

"Nostalgic" was how the Vice President described the meeting, which took only five minutes.

When Washburn asked how Gutierrez was, the Aeta replied fast: "How about you?"

Guingona told Washburn and US Navy officials that the Aetas "were very happy to help" and that they came all the way from their mountain village in Angeles City to dispel rumors he was abducted by NPA rebels.

The NPA, in a statement Friday, said they were only after the firearms—two M-16 Armalite rifles and a .45 cal. pistol—of the soldiers.

Guingona also praised the Aetas, saying "what they did was just."

"I appreciate all the help," a smiling Washburn told Gutierrez and Pan.

"They're very much hospitable," he told Guingona.

After the short program held at the end of the concluding rites of the Carat 2001, the Aetas lingered for two minutes to take a last glance of their friend.

"We are happy. We finally saw him for the last time. He appears well," Gutierrez told the INQUIRER as he descended the USS Rushmore where the reunion took place.

But he said he failed to tell Washburn to help them relay the message to Americans, some of whom were stationed in the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga, that the "Aetas are good people."

"I felt shy. I wanted to talk more but I could not," he said in Kapampangan.

Pan regarded the brief encounter with Washburn a "*makuyad a panikaluguran kayari na ning masakit nang dilanan* (a short friendship after his difficult ordeal)."

The two waited for more than five hours to bid Washburn goodbye.

They left Pampanga at 8:30 a.m., arriving in Subic two hours later to be feted to a delicious lunch at the Seafront Restaurant here.

All members of the Gutierrez and Pan clans in Sapang Bato wanted to come, according to Angelo Lopez, Clark Development Corp. public information officer, who drove the two to Subic.

Pan's father Kalangitan and tribal chieftain Danilo Tecson accompanied the two Aetas.

In the Aeta culture, according to Tecson, it is customary for friends or even acquaintance to part well and happy.

Gutierrez and Pan enjoyed instant celebrity status here. Their good deed, publicized in dailies, has reached the public attention.

Josias Canapati, who works as a maintenance man at the Legend International Resorts Inc., immediately recognized the two when they were at the lobby of the Legenda Hotel.

Canapati congratulated them.

"What you did was right. You should both be emulated by our fellow Filipinos," he said.

Angelito Ong and other waiters of the Seafront Restraurant also recognized the two, serving them water as soon as they were seated.

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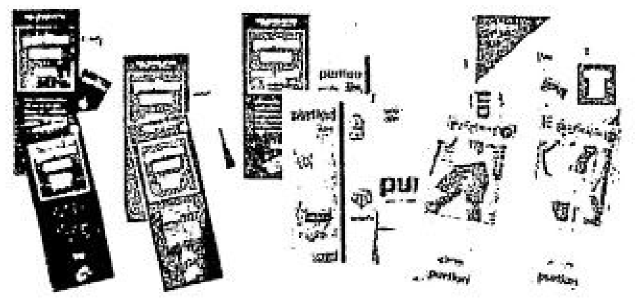

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1710 Series of 2001

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Gloria scraps car theft clearance

By Nagiel B. Banacia
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Car owners may now bring their vehicles to other islands of the country without having to secure anti-car theft clearance certificates.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has signed a memorandum dated May 11 lifting the requirement for certificates when shipping or bringing vehicles to different islands.

The Regional Development Council in Central Visayas considered the scrapping of the requirement a "victory" because it had been lobbying for it for several years.

"Finally, Malacañang has heard our voice," said Bohol Gov. Rene Relampagos, council chair.

Valeriano Avila, council private sector representative, said Cebu would largely benefit from the scrapping of the requirement.

"Cebu is (the) center of commerce and domestic shipping in the South. Our development was stifled (by the certificate requirement)," he said.

Now that the requirement has been lifted, Avila said businessmen can now freely transport their goods using their own vehicles anywhere in the Visayas.

The certificate was required following the passage of Republic Act 6539 or the Anti-Carnapping Act in the 1970s.

The requirement was perceived to be disadvantageous in the Visayas because the region is composed of island-provinces unlike Luzon and Mindanao, which are land-locked.

Inter-island vessels are the primary modes of transportation in the Visayas. But the certificate requirement restrained people from travelling and bringing their cargo from one island to another.

Avila said the certificate clearance failed to curb car thefts but became a source of corruption by policemen.

2 boys slain in attack on Kalibo house

KALIBO, Aklan—Two boys were killed while their aunt and uncle were wounded early last week when five men, armed with shotguns, fired at the house of the Cortes family in Sitio Buyo, Barangay Julita, Libacao town.

Killed on the spot were Gepty Erano Cortes, 12, and Ramil Cortes, 18. It was not known immediately if the two were brothers.

But the fatalities were nephews of Edwin Cortes who, with his wife Helen, were also,wounded in the attack.

Although wounded, Edwin refused to be brought to a hospital.

Helen, who suffered wounds in the chest and waist, was brought to the Dr. Rafael Tumbokon Memorial Hospital in Kalibo.

She pointed to a certain Dodoy and Apa Tamayo and three still unidentified men as the ones responsible for the shooting.

Police were looking into family feud as a possible motive for the attack.

Edwin's brother, Lobing, was accused of killing Tala Tamayo, who belonged to the Tamayo-Valencia clan of Barangay Julita, on May 14. *Odon S. Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau*

LAST REFUGE

Destroying a myth in Palawan

By Dr. Pat M. Rogers and Dominique M. Tabora
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

RIZAL, Palawan—The rays of the sun had started to pierce the foliage of a logged-over forest in Barangay Bunog in the southernmost town of mainland Palawan.

The air was filled with the sound of cicadas. Butterflies flit from plant to plant. The area used to be a dense forest but was reduced to a few patches of trees after the Western Palawan Logging Co. operated in the area in the 1980s. Forest fires at the height of El Niño in 1998 further cleared the area of vegetation.

Luckily for Barangay Bunog, the forest has started to grow again..

After a 25-minute ride through an old logging road, and a 30-minute trek through the forest, including crossing the meandering Tagbuaya River 10 times, visitors would come upon a clearing made by Rorat Pasto.

Green leaves of rice sprout from the earth that is blackened with soot.

Rorat sits in a makeshift hut, gently rocking the swaddling cloth hung to a beam, with his baby girl sleeping inside it. The baby is Rorat's 12th child by his third wife Nita.

At 42, Rorat cannot read or write but can speak Tagalog and Ilonggo, which he learned from his neighbors. Rorat's father is a Kenuy who married a Palaw'an from Quinlogan, Quezon.

The youngest of seven children, Rorat and his family used to live near the coast but were pushed back to the forest when Visayans and Mindanaoans flocked to the towns of Quezon and Rizal.

Today, hunger and illness stalk the family and neighbors of Rorat.

He no longer gathers *almaciga* resin. Loggers have cut down most of the *almaciga* trees and those that are left are found on steep elevations in the forest, making the gathering of resin difficult.

He now derives his income from gathering *vantok* and *bagang* (stag beetles).

A neighbor, Samat, depends on his *kaingin* farm to sustain his six children. He also gathers parrots and mynahs in the forest, which he sells for P300 each to town traders. Despite all the laws banning the gathering of wildlife, the trade of tropical birds and insects flourishes because Manila's pet shops buy them.

Migrant traders who roam Palawan urge natives to gather exotic flora and fauna. Parrots, mynahs and cockatoos fetch a minimum price of P1,000 each in pet shops. The stag beetles are supplied to Japanese buyers in Manila.

Truckloads of *kamagong* are also cut and shipped out at night by illegal loggers in connivance with barangay officials, a resident says. The illegal trade of exotic flora and fauna along with hardwood species flourishes because of the pressure exerted by lowlanders.

THIS "kamagong" tree was, not long ago, in a sea of others like it until loggers and lowlanders came in. There may be no others like it anymore in the near future, unless people get their act together and make sense of land use.

More than a third of Rizal's population is composed of migrants. It is not surprising, therefore, that the town had the fastest rate of deforestation in the province. Illegal loggers and slash-and-burn farmers cleared about 23,000 hectares of forest here during the last decade.

But despite the degradation, Palawan remains to be the country's last refuge.

Protected area

With about 46 percent of the province still forested, the whole of Palawan has been declared a protected area. A unique approach, embodied in Republic Act 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan (SEP), provides that every square inch of the province be included in a series of protection zones of increasing strictness.

The greatest protection is reserved for "all types of natural forest . . . areas above 1,000-meter elevation . . . very steep gradients . . . endangered habitats and habitats of endangered species."

The SEP also provides for traditional and multiple-use areas. The idea is to design use to suit the land, whether for farming, residential, forestry or watershed protection.

The philosophy is to develop the land on a sustainable basis—ecologically viable, socially acceptable and integrated.

Pressures

Palawan consists of a long, thin island about 700 kilometers long and a host of smaller ones. Along its center runs a spine of mountains, most of which are still forested.

In southern Palawan, that spine is formed by two mountain ranges: Mt. Mantalingahan and the Victoria Peaks.

The Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Program (PTFPP), a special project of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the European Union, ensures the continued ecological integrity of those mountains using Mt. Mantalingahan as its focus.

But indigenous peoples and poor immigrants put pressure on Mantalingahan. Lowlanders, with their own set of rules, have pushed the original inhabitants to where they could not be bothered.

The more the coastal areas were cleared and settled, the further up the original inhabitants went.

A common denominator for both migrants and natives is poverty.

The problems of the mountain arise from the lowlands, and the fact that the agricultural potential of the lowlands depends on the mountain, particularly its ecological health. Fencing it as a protected area would cut across that interdependence.

The Mantalingahan mountain ranges fall in five large municipalities, one of which is Rizal. There are, inevitably, boundary disputes that must be resolved. For example, the main part of a river catchment on Mantalingahan may be in a municipality different from that of the main user on the coast.

Problem solving

Ways of solving the problems of the mountain within the SEP philosophy of integrated and sustainable development are being developed. The SEP establishes a system of zones for the province, the Ecologically Critical Areas Network (Ecan). It applies to the whole province.

Another planning system which provides the building blocks of Ecan is the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which each municipality or city in the country is required to implement on its land.

Coordination is also needed between municipalities and national agencies. Municipalities are obliged to produce and implement their land use plans, but national agencies plan and implement their own policies in virtual disregard of the municipalities' programs.

The need for coordination is particularly acute in Southern Palawan, where the municipalities are clustered around a central and vital common resource.

There is a need to allow the municipalities a greater role in planning and to insist that national agencies dialogue with them on policies.

There is also a need to make the lowland population aware of its dependence on the uplands. The local economy is agricultural. But the economy of the five towns surrounding the Mantalingahan mountain ranges depends on a steady supply of water, which comes from the mountain.

Other issues that are being glossed over although they are as important include biodiversity, carbon sinks, global climate change and perhaps, spirituality.

The problem calls for effective physical planning.

The PTFPP is trying to build a strong basis for coordination among municipalities and national agencies in Southern Palawan, and to get the towns to manage and develop Mt. Mantalingahan and other upland areas that are common resources without destroying their ecology. It is, however, an uphill task.

Palawan has seen enormous population growth in recent years, fuelled by the myth that it is some sort of a frontier to be challenged, that there is "free" land to be had for the asking. But the land is not free. It is occupied at the cost of those living around it. It belongs to those few who have lived there since time immemorial. It is the last refuge for the rural poor who are driven to less and less hospitable parts of it because their culture is incompatible with that of the newcomers.

This myth of the last frontier must be destroyed. Let Palawan represent the country's last refuge and perhaps our last chance to manage land sensibly.

Outgoing mayor accused of 'midnight appointments'

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Barely three weeks before bowing out of office, Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo promoted on Thursday 22 City Hall employees and appointed 86 new workers, in what his critics claimed were "midnight appointments."

Among those promoted to permanent positions were City Health Officer Dr. Erlinda Cabrera, City Engineer Edwin Quirit, Budget Officer Ramon Pinero and City Administrator Ricardo Gonzales Jr., who were all holding offices in either temporary or acting capacities.

Remollo said this was his first time to exercise his executive prerogative to promote or hire employees in his three-year term as mayor, which ends on June 30.

Remollo, who served for a term, lost his reelection bid to returning Mayor Agustin Perdices. Perdices was mayor of Dumaguete for three consecutive terms from 1987-1998.

"I would be remiss in my duty if I would not recognize the performance of deserving employees," Remollo said.

He denied that these were midnight appointments because these were made "after careful and painstaking evaluation" and after the appointees passed the scrutiny of department heads, members of the Personnel Selection Board (PSB), the Bantay Serbisyo Task Force and the personnel office.

But city personnel officer Ruperto Tenorio Jr. vowed to sit on the appointments because, he said, these were invalid based on Civil Service Commission rulings that prohibit midnight appointments.

These appointments, he said, have all the elements of a "midnight appointment"—a defeated candidate made the appointments, the PSB was convened after the elections and the appointments were made shortly before the assumption of a new mayor.

But Remollo warned Tenorio that he could be charged with insubordination and neglect of duty if he blocked the appointments.

"He has no power to block this because the power to appoint and promote city employees is solely lodged in the mayor," Remollo said.

He said an outgoing mayor may still exercise his powers to promote deserving employees and make new appointments provided these were done in good faith.

Remollo said Perdices also signed almost 50 appointments in his last month in office in 1998.

"I did not make a big deal out of it. The legal presumption is that for as long as one sits as mayor, he has all the powers and prerogatives attached to that office," he said.

But Mayor-elect Perdices said the appointments he made in 1998 were approved by the PSB on March 4, 1998, way before the election ban on hiring and two months before the May 11, 1998 elections.

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JUNE 22-23	9-5:30	INTENSIVE CULTURE OF TILAPIA IN TANKS (with field trip)	1,386.00
JUNE 25-26		QUAIL RAISING (with field trip)	770.00
25	9-4:00		
26	9-12:00		

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JUNE 23-25		HOW TO BE A CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRE	1,771.00
23-24	9-5:30	(with field trip)	
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Guillermo: Unknown freedom fighter

(From page A1)

of fresh disciples arrived to sign up with the KKK.

Not long after, they attacked the Spanish troops occupying San Mateo and gained control of the town. After a few days, however, the Spaniards, aided by reinforcements, succeeded in recapturing the town, forcing Bonifacio, Guillermo and the rest of the KKK to withdraw to Balara.

Later, Bonifacio appointed Guillermo chief of the KKK in San Francisco del Monte. In his account of the days of the revolution prior to the killing of Bonifacio, Col. Genaro de los Reyes (of Mandaluyong, Rizal, aka "Bato Balani" in the Katipunan) mentioned seeing Guillermo there while searching for the KKK leader.

Guillermo, according to De los Reyes, was so absorbed in the task of organizing troops for the Katipunan that he (De los Reyes) did not have the chance to ask him about the Supremo.

After Bonifacio's death, nothing was heard of Guillermo. Perhaps, he was among those who, according to Gen. Santiago "Apoy" Alvarez, might have been demoralized by Bonifacio's death and might have temporarily lost interest in the revolutionary struggle.

Or, being one of the fallen leaders' close comrades, he chose to lie low awhile, quietly organizing on his own among the people.

Reappearance

In 1901, Guillermo began appearing in military reports as the leader of a guerrilla war against the Americans in the northern Rizal area. He was one of those who brokered the unification of the different guerrilla forces there, which the Americans disparagingly called the "Diliman Gang" to denigrate the legitimacy of the independence struggle.

In 1902 when the Philippine-American War "officially" ended, the Brigandage Act was issued, reducing Guillermo and other guerrillas to a "gang of brigands."

An astute guerrilla, Guillermo was always one step ahead of the enemy. He knew when to strike or when to wait. He knew the dirty tactics the US military employed to counter guerrilla advances, such as infiltration of guerrilla camps.

At one point, unknown to the spies, he permitted them to penetrate his camp. Before the spies got the chance to report to their American bosses, however, he inflicted on them the ultimate punishment guerrillas meted out on spies.

The infiltrators were buried up to their necks, their heads and faces exposed to the painful bites of *hamtik* (huge red ants).

2 exploits

Two of Guillermo's documented exploits involved skirmishes with the early Philippine Constabulary. While organizing the KKK in Novaliches, he was attacked by a former revolutionary chief who had turned PC inspector, Licerio Geronimo (whose soldiers shot down Gen. Henry W. Lawton in the Battle of San Mateo, 1899).

Guillermo gave Geronimo a beating, grabbing the latter's blue and khaki uniforms. Geronimo again attacked the following day, but this time Guillermo, wisely, opted not to face the enemy.

In the second encounter, it was Guillermo who decided to attack. He totally disabled a PC detachment that was occupying a nearby barrio. To his credit, however, he left the constables unharmed.

Guillermo joined Gen. Luciano San Miguel when the latter assumed the command of forces in the vicinity. His successful attacks on the enemy earned him the post of deputy to San Miguel.

But this only prompted the enemy to launch a relentless drive to capture him.

The end came in June 1903, the same year General San Miguel was killed in the Battle of Corral-na-Bato. Not much later, Guillermo died in the gallows.

KUSTACIO'S grave is located beneath this ramshackled house Inside the Baguio Economic Zone, supervised by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority. The house is presently straddled by a Norwegian and a Japanese company. E. V. ESPIRITU

Tribe to protect . . .

(From page A1)

Carantes and Mateo Cariño in isolated testimonies, suggesting a niche for Ibalois in the Aguinaldo Foundation's ongoing efforts to consolidate a definitive historical encyclopedia on the country's heroes, beginning with Aguinaldo.

"We don't know at the moment the historical details of Kustacio Carantes' involvement (in the Philippine Revolution). However, we are supportive of any such interest and involvement in history," said Emilio Aguinaldo Suntay III, Aguinaldo's great-grandson and foundation chief executive officer, in an e-mail message from Australia.

Igorot hero

According to the 1972 book, "Baguio and Mountain Province in the Making," Carantes was a landowner who was designated by the American colonial government as a member of the Baguio advisory council, the president of the Baguio township and subsequently a Baguio and Benguet representative until his death in 1913.

He was described as "an imposing man" in a 1978 documentation of stories told by his cousins and siblings to the late Ibaloi historian Geoffrey Carantes, Kustacio's grandson.

The young Carantes had been trying to piece together testimonies about the Ibaloi leader's revolutionary activities.

One account described Kustacio's mysterious journeys to Pangasinan and La Union, apparently to report to either the Katipunan faction loyal to Aguinaldo or sympathetic Spanish authorities about the activities here of gold-hungry Spanish and, later, American explorers.

Benguet was the center of a gold rush for nearly a decade at the turn of the 20th century.

"Kustacio became the object of intensive manhunts by Spanish soldiers or *cazadores* due to his seditious activities against the Spanish administration. He was one of a few Igorots who responded against the Spanish aggression," according to a letter prepared by the Benguet Ibaloi clans for officials of the Philippine Export Zone Authority.

In one of Geoffrey Carantes' journals, he quoted the recollections of his father and Kustacio's son, Maximino, who saw off Kustacio whenever his trips brought him to Lingayen, Pangasinan, "to report to the Spanish authorities (and) express their grievances against the abuses committed by the Spaniards in Baguio and Benguet."

In another 1978 account obtained by Carantes, Kustacio was associated with American colonials, because of his friendship with "a certain Sergeant Woodson and a Colonel Smith" who were gifted with a parcel of his property inside what is now Camp John Hay where the American government here obtained its water.

Crucial to the Aguinaldo heirs, however, are several accounts documented by Carantes which identify Aguinaldo among the lowland visitors who frequently stayed at Kustacio's ancestral home at Loakan, Alonso noted.

In fact, many elderly Ibalois have anecdotes about a mysterious flag that Aguinaldo gave to one of the Igorot revolutionaries.

A few believe the revolutionary was Kustacio.

Flag's legitimacy

The anecdotal "revolutionary flag" adds flavor to the Aguinaldo heirs' quest for legitimacy.

Bereft of a formal government acknowledgment of its authenticity, the country's original flag will be displayed again at the Aguinaldo Museum here, along with a 15-foot flag, which Aguinaldo planted near his revolutionary headquarters in Palanan, Isabela.

Suntay said the country's leadership continued to subscribe to the political issues that had helped discredit Aguinaldo, as well as all his artifacts, including the flag.

The original flag bears a mythical Filipino sun god with eight rays.

Golden threads bind the two-layered, decaying banner, with the words *Libertad, Justicia, Egualidad* (the French Revolution battle cry of Liberty, Justice, Equality) running down its red and blue fields.

Suntay recalled that the Americans banned the display of the Aguinaldo flag between 1907 and 1919.

In 1936, Aguinaldo's political rival, President Manuel L. Quezon, later issued Executive Order 23 that fixed the flag's design and parameters to its present state.

The Aguinaldo flag was discovered tucked underneath the general's deathbed and had been kept in seclusion for years until the 1980s.

A similarly designed artifact under the Ibalois' care could help substantiate its value, an Aguinaldo source said.

But the foundation would first need assurances about the safety of Carantes' remains, his heirs told Alonso on Saturday.

The gravesite now stands in the way of an expansion program at the Baguio economic zone, which is straddled by two factories of Norwegian and Japanese companies.

It was enclosed on May 24 by a huge government fence, set up purposely to secure the access to StarTech, a Japanese investor inside the zone.

Alarmed by the fencing, three of the heirs acting as sentries in Barangay Loakan alerted elders throughout Benguet, precipitating a province-wide consultation regarding the fate of Carantes' remains, according to Mary Makay-Smith, 59, one of the sentry heirs.

The shaggy, old house hosting Carantes' grave was expropriated for P40 a square meter before 1980, an episode which the Makay family had contested in court in August 1980. They lost the court battle.

But the grave's relocation had not even been discussed, said Modesto Agyao, deputy administrator of the Baguio Export Processing Zone.

"(The Ibaloi elders) may be reacting to false information to fuel controversy over the land. The export processing zone is engulfed in so many claims of ancestral land (stakes) that the government suspects people could be using the gravesite as leverage," he told the INQUIRER.

But Agyao, a Cordilleran, said the government was sensitive to Carantes' historic and cultural relevance in Benguet.

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E. V. ESPIRITU

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MANILA/DAVAO vice-versa	P3,307	P2,919	
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Kids taught Arabic to understand Muslim classmates

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A public elementary school here is offering its pupils a course on Arabic language and culture to prepare them for their Muslim classmates enrolling this school year.

The experimental course hopes to break down conventional prejudices against Muslim Filipinos, many of whom have fled to Baguio City following a series of Mindanao wars and "to cushion any misimpression generated by the current Mindanao crisis," said Godofredo Jarata, principal of the Doña Josefa Cariño Elementary School.

The taunt "Abu Sayyaf" still rings loud in downtown Baguio whenever Maranao traders or their children sell their wares, said Mohammad Cali, who offered to sponsor the Arabic lectures after enrolling six of his 12 children at the school.

The taunt is a reflection of local public sentiments regarding ongoing military offensives against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan, he said.

The city's large Maranao community is dominated by refugees who fled from military campaigns in several areas in Mindanao, which have razed parts of the island since 1972. About 200 Muslims have decided to reside in Baguio following last year's "all-out war" campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Several Maranao families introduced themselves as recent migrants to Jarata during enrollment period last week.

The "Abu Sayyaf" taunts had, in fact, been hurled against Maranao school children by several of their classmates, although no Muslim parent had complained about these officially, Cali said.

"But if we all understand what being a (Maranao) is all about, if everyone understands why we are Muslims, then perhaps this will stop," Cali said in Filipino.

Cali offered the concept to Jarata in November last year. It is designed as an after-school daily regimen for "interested children from Grade 1 up to Grade 6."

It involves rudimentary training in basic Arabic, lessons about the Arabic alphabet, mathematics and their applications in life.

Most of the school's parents were interested in the course, according to a January survey conducted by Jarata, although the school is still fixing up logistical details to sustain the experiment for the next two years.

The course may open next month or toward the end of October, school officials said.

Jarata said in-migration from Mindanao appeared to have increased, as shown by the enrollment at the Josefa Cariño Elementary School of some 300 pupils from Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Cagayan de Oro City.

"We have always had Muslim children, but the numbers have been growing," Jarata said.

Most of the Muslim children were initially withdrawn when they first stepped into their classrooms, but they managed to do well academically, he said.

"I have honor students who are Muslim Filipinos, who are surnamed Datumanong. They are doing very well. This is to show parents here that a Muslim Filipino is no different from a Christian Filipino, because they are both hardworking and values-oriented," Jarata said in Filipino.

"The only way we distinguish them is the (*kobong*, a customary female headgear worn as a religious obligation). Otherwise they are the same kind of children we deal with everyday."

2 Abu Sayyaf suspects slain in Basilan

(From page A1)

be in Isabela to buy supplies for their confederates.

Citing reports from the 103rd Infantry Brigade, Adan said nine "suspicious looking men" were held at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Army's Maligue detachment.

They were unarmed when accosted by the Army while aboard a passenger jeep.

Tried to grab firearms

While being brought to the headquarters of the 24th Special Forces Company, two of the suspects reportedly "tried to grab the firearms" of the soldiers. A backup team at the rear "opened fire and killed them."

In the commotion that ensued, four of the men were able to get away and three were recaptured.

Of the four who escaped, two were later recaptured at the Basilan Provincial Hospital while seeking treatment for bullet wounds.

The wounded were identified as Misal Sapaat and Timbasal Linungan. Two of those arrested were Lukman Alim and Emcon Hassan, both from the town of Tuburan.

Adan said the two slain men and the two who were recaptured at the hospital were later identified by a former kidnap victim as members of the Abu Sayyaf.

When told that the incident appeared to be a case of extrajudicial execution, Adan said: "We just have to believe our troops that this was what happened."

"This is the report we got," Adan said, although he conceded that critics of the military might use the incident to lash out at the AFP, which is regarded as having botched its job of quickly neutralizing the Abu Sayyaf.

"When you're guilty and in the process of being brought to a military camp, you'll try to make a breakthrough," Adan said as he tried to rationalize the shooting of the suspected bandits.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said the killings were the result of the military's lack of coordination with local officials and militiamen in the area.

With coordination, it would be easier for the soldiers to determine if the victims were indeed Abu Sayyaf bandits.

But Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Task Force Comet commander, said he was sure the victims were bandits.

"We have documents to prove, such as affidavits of former kidnap victims or hostages that could point to some of these persons," he said.

Still, Dominguez instructed 103rd Army Brigade commander Col. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. "to look deeper into this matter."

Relatives of the victims said they were innocent civilians.

Moira Salim, mother of 16-year-old Salim, who is now detained, said that her son was only getting lumber in Sitio Kapatagan.

"But they were stopped by the soldiers, who inspected their cargo. Then they ordered my son, including eight others to alight from the jeep. They were informed that they were being arrested," Moira said in Tausug.

Moira said the soldiers then ordered the civilians to remove their shirts.

Ordered to run

"My son told me that they were ordered to run and then the military started shooting them," she said.

Vilduma Luma said his cousin Hadji Alih Lukman, one of those killed, was an "ordinary civilian."

"Why, are they finding it difficult to find members of the Abu Sayyaf?" Luma asked.

"Now that they committed a mistake, they are making it appear that the victims were Abu Sayyaf members. Do they have a conscience?" Luma said.

With the apparent blunder, Akbar said the real bandits were mocking the soldiers in Lantawan town.

"They were sighted in Bulanza, Lantawan conducting checkpoints and sea blockade on the coastal areas of this barangay. They are mocking the soldiers because their morale is high," Akbar said.

He said the bandits in Lantawan had six hostages with them.

"I just don't know if there are foreign hostages with them, but I learned that there are women," Akbar said.

In Tuburan, soldiers fought about 25 fully armed MILF rebels led by a certain Commander Usoh Gafor.

The gun battle lasted about an hour until the MILF retreated. Troops recovered from the scene two combat uniforms, personal belongings and documents.

"The MILF rebels based in Tuburan, a known lair of the separatist rebels, were used as a screening force by the Abu Sayyaf bandits to facilitate their escape," said the officer, who asked not to be identified.

Aside from the MILF, Adan blamed civilians for aiding the Abu Sayyaf.

He had earlier grumbled that the military could not end the hostage crisis in the absence of either a state of emergency or martial law in areas where the bandits were operating.

With or without these measures, the military has started going after civilians, particularly in Sulu, another known lair of the Abu Sayyaf.

Reports reaching Camp Aguinaldo said soldiers of the 26th Special Forces Company and the 37th Scout Ranger Company under a certain Captain Parina and one Lieutenant Matarul conducted a "raid" in Maimbung, Sulu.

The report said the soldiers confiscated from "civilian residents" one M-14 rifle, three M-16s, bandoleers, ammunition magazines and 160 rounds of M-16 ammunition.

Pastoral letter

The Catholic Church in Basilan yesterday issued a pastoral letter, denouncing the Abu Sayyaf's atrocities in Lamitan town.

It also questioned the military and police's competence in handling the hostage crisis.

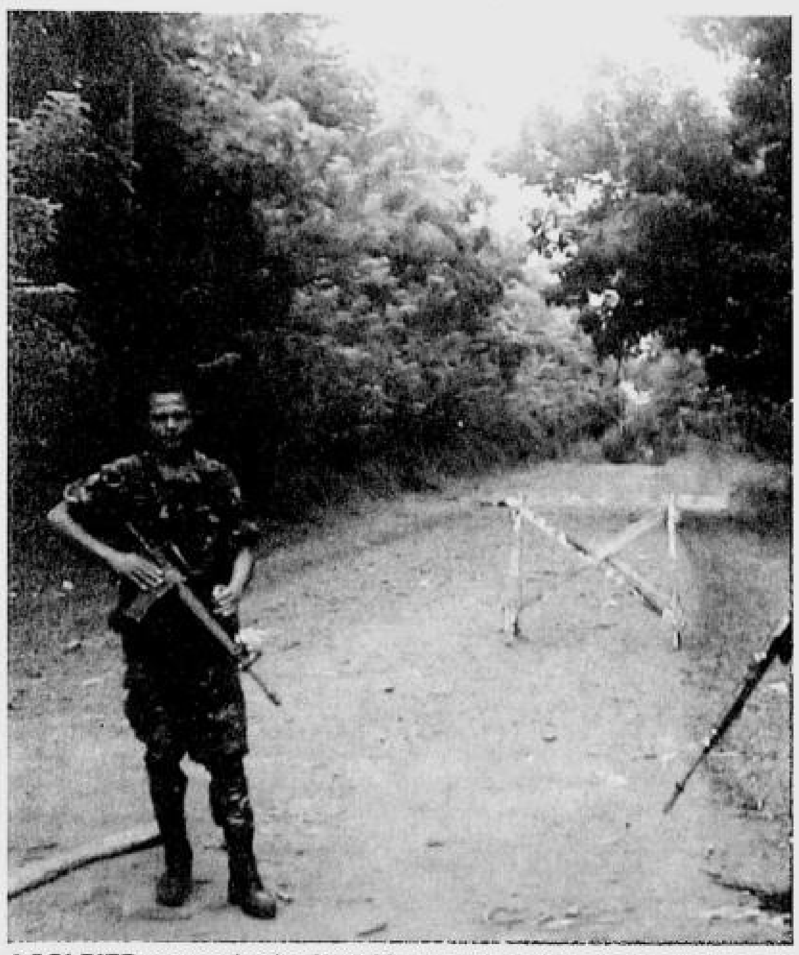
"The Abu Sayyaf's evil presence wrought colossal destruction to life and property. People can perhaps live and accept what they have done by their identity as barbaric, bloodthirsty bandits and terrorists," the letter said.

"However, it is very difficult to console the anger and frustration of many victims on how the military and police leadership blundered in their operation that even caused a big number of casualties from demoralized soldiers.

"Most people in Lamitan and even the whole of Basilan are puzzled at how easily the Abu Sayyaf entered and exited a clearly identified and enclosed target. We cannot comprehend that the superior military force has become an embarrassment for its seemingly undirected, unstudied, uncoordinated operation that made peoples' lives including lower ranked soldiers expendable."

SOLDIERS patrol the waters off Basilan in search of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

JOEY BAUTISTA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU



A SOLDIER mans a checkpoint as his comrades pursue the hostage takers in Tuburan town in Basilan.

JOEY BAUTISTA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Singapore exec warns on distorted Islam view

SINGAPORE—The actions of the Abu Sayyaf extremists in the Philippines and the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan were creating an "unfair and misleading" image of Islam, a prominent Singapore Muslim and government minister said Sunday.

Othman Haron Eusofe, the minister of state for manpower, said the negative media reports could undermine efforts to promote social cohesion and understanding.

The Abu Sayyaf, a band of terrorists, is holding 13 hostages, including three Americans in the southern jungles of the Philippines.

The gunmen, who style themselves as fighters for an independent Islamic state, have a history of kidnappings and slaughter, with beheadings as their trademark.

The Taliban, which seized Kabul in 1996, has enforced an ultra-strict form of Islam in the 90 percent of Afghanistan they hold.

Squads of religious police patrol the major cities and deliver on-the-spot punishments, and in March the Taliban ordered the destruction of two colossal Buddha statues carved more than 1,500 years ago because they were "false idols."

"With the media going for sensational stories, like the hostage crisis in the Philippines involving the extremist Abu Sayyaf group, or the actions of the Taliban in Afghanistan destroying historical monuments and so on, the concern is that they will continue to perpetuate an unfair or misleading perception of Islam," Eusofe said.

There was a danger the distorted view "can create serious misunderstanding and undermine efforts to promote social cohesion and understanding," he said in a speech marking the Prophet Mohammed's birthday.

Eusofe called on Singapore Muslims "to set a good example" and uphold their Islamic obligations while also showing that they have positive attitudes.

"We must demonstrate unequivocally that we value tolerance and moderation," he said. *AFP*

Libya offers help in resolving hostage crisis

(From page A1)

But "no specific forms of help were discussed at all," presidential spokesperson Roberto Tiglao told reporters.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal did not reject Libya's offer.

"(R)ight now, we're not rejecting it but right now (the President) feels that military operations would be enough," he said. "All offers of help are not outrightly rejected by this government."

Tiglao said the Libyan leader was "condemning the terroristic acts of the Abu Sayyaf group."

Last year, a Libyan diplomat mediated the release of 21 mostly European hostages that the Abu Sayyaf seized from the Malaysian diving resort of Sipadan.

Except for a Filipino resort worker still in Abu Sayyaf hands, all of the hostages were freed, most of them after payment of large ransoms estimated by local officials at $1 million each.

Some of the captives were rescued or escaped during fighting between government forces and the bandits.

Reacting to Libya's latest offer of help in resolving the hostage crisis, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the Palace to reject it to prevent another Sipadan incident.

"We might fall into the same trap," Pimentel said. "The Libyan government may have no hidden agenda but the effect will be the same."

Pimentel said "giving the Abu Sayyaf more money for its own agenda could destabilize the government and make an industry out of kidnapping."

But the President made it clear that the government would stick to its no-ransom payment policy.

Past lessons

"We have seen the lessons from the past," the President said yesterday morning in the radio program of her husband Mike Arroyo.

"What happened before? The kidnappings continued and the Abu Sayyaf was able to modernize itself," Ms Macapagal said.

Tiglao said Gadhafi had told the President that Libya supported Manila's no-ransom policy in dealing with the Abu Sayyaf holding the three Americans and 10 Filipinos hostage for 15 days.

The Abu Sayyaf has set a 72-hour deadline for executing the three Americans if the government rejected its demand for a Malaysian to negotiate with them.

A senior Philippine official said the deadline would expire on Monday.

The Abu Sayyaf abducted 20 people on May 27 from the Dos Palmas beach resort off Puerto Princesa City in Palawan and brought them across 500 km of sea to Basilan.

Nine of the hostages have escaped or have been released. Two were found dead, apparently executed by the bandits.

The remaining nine hostages are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf along with four other Filipinos abducted last weekend from a hospital in Lamitan town in Basilan.

In the radio program, the President defended the designation of William Castillo as the government's emissary in the negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf. The President said the talks were part of the military operations against the bandits.

"Because this time we want to do it by the book," Ms Macapagal said.

Ms Macapagal said the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada "broke all the rules in dealing with terrorists."

Estrada had announced a no-ransom policy during the Sipadan hostage crisis but allowed the payment of ransom to the bandits.

Libyan charity group

In August last year, the Gadhafi Charity Organization, run by Gadhafi's son Seif, was believed to have financed the release of 21 Sipadan hostages in Sulu.

Tiglao clarified that Ms Macapagal did not appeal to Gadhafi for Libyan help as reported yesterday afternoon by the Agence France Presse, which, in turn, was quoting a Libyan television station.

According to the AFP report, Ms Macapagal had asked Gadhafi to "deploy efforts to help find a settlement on the issue of hostages."

Tiglao explained that the President called up Gadhafi Saturday night after learning from the Libyan Embassy in Manila that the Libyan leader "had wanted to talk to (the President) but could not get in touch with her."

He said the "main topic of their conversation" was the peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF to be held in Tripoli on June 20. It was Libya that offered to host the government-MILF peace talks, according to Tiglao. *(See story on Page A2.)*

The 12,500-strong MILF is the main rebel group fighting for a Muslim homeland in Mindanao.

Talks in Tripoli

"Mr. Gadhafi reiterated his full support for the peace talks and thanked her for accepting Libya's offer to host it in Tripoli," Tiglao said.

The President expressed gratitude for Tripoli's hosting of the resumption of peace talks and its support for Manila's peace efforts.

Then Gadhafi asked Ms Macapagal about the hostage crisis.

"And the President assured him that the government is confident that its military operations would result in the rescue of the victims and the decimation of the Abu Sayyaf," Tiglao said.

Gadhafi told the President that the Libyan government was available for any help it could extend to the Philippines.

Reminding him that accepting the offer may offend the United States, who sent people here to help the government deal with the crisis, Tiglao said: "That's the positive development. Even Libya is offering to help to end this terroristic group."

An Abu Sayyaf spokesman set the 72-hour deadline in a call to Radio Mindanao Network about 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Local officials had said the ultimatum would expire yesterday, but National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the deadline was today.

He said a government intermediary had talked with the Abu Sayyaf and "they (the rebels) clarified it would be tomorrow."

Asked what steps the government was taking to prevent the executions, Golez said in a television interview "there are talks right now."

"We have an open line of communications with them but when it comes to conditions, we cannot accept any conditions," he said.

He said an Abu Sayyaf demand for a military pullback from a mountainous area in Basilan where the hostages are believed held was "out of the question."

With a report from Reuters

IT'S CLEAN UP TIME

A Manifesto of Civil Society

We, the civil society, believe that the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is the most corrupt government agency in the country. Rough estimate indicates that about 400 billion is lost to corruption in the BIR every year.

Government efforts to clean it up in the past have been piecemeal, if not half-hearted. It is not surprising that BIR remains to be a cesspool of corruption.

Corruption in the BIR, coupled with a serious decline in tax collection in recent years has forced government to undertake belt-tightening measures to immediately address the gaping budget deficit.

However, there is a limit to which government can squeeze an already tight budget.

Further squeezing the allocation for social services, education and infrastructure has shackled the hands of government from effectively addressing widespread poverty. It will also deprive public school teachers and other civil servants of the salary raise they deserve. About 80% of the budget after pre-determined fixed expenditure goes to wages of public sector personnel.

With the country being confronted daily with the difficult task of stimulating economic growth, attracting investments and alleviating poverty, combating corruption in BIR should be a top priority. The Bureau accounts for 80% of total government revenues. We lose about 50 centavos for every peso of potential revenue from BIR.

Current BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez has committed to pursue firm efforts to transform the Bureau into an agency that people can trust. We laud his efforts. We support the proposal of his team to dismantle corruption, prosecute erring officials and employees, institute transparent systems and procedures, and establish a graft-free and efficient agency.

While we congratulate the BIR in posting an increase in tax collection for the 1st quarter of the year, we do not believe this should be a reason to rejoice. More fundamental and sweeping reforms are needed in the BIR. We ask that the BIR actively inform the public on its ongoing tax administration initiatives so that the people can understand and support them.

So that we can defend them.

We believe that the reshuffle recently ordered by Commissioner Bañez as provided for by authorities vested upon him by law is necessary to improve the long-term collection rate of BIR.

That these changes are being resisted by the old boy's club of regional directors, district revenue officers and examiners is understandable. The they have put up a well-funded campaign of intrigue and intimidation is understandable. These are the kinds of people threatened by the reform efforts of Commissioner Bañez.

We strongly suggest that the signatories to the manifesto calling for the ouster of Commissioner Bañez be subjected to a wealth and lifestyle audit.

We strongly support the investigation and prosecution of erring BIR officials and employees.

We call on the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Administration to strongly manifest support for reforms against corruption and inefficiencies in tax administration.

DINA ABAD
Ateneo School of Government

ANGELICA ABELLA
VACC- CRDF

TERESITA BALTAZAR
Konsensyang Pilipino

EDNA BORJA
Social Weather Stations

ALLAN BORRES
RPM- PMDG

Ed Campos
ED CAMPOS
Procurement Watch

RAMON CLARETE
UP School of Economics

PETER FRANCISCO
Gomburza-Layko

JERRY GO
Art. 64 Movement-OVP

Evelyn L. Kilayko
EVELYN KILAYKO
Concerned Women of the Philippines

JOEY LEDESMA
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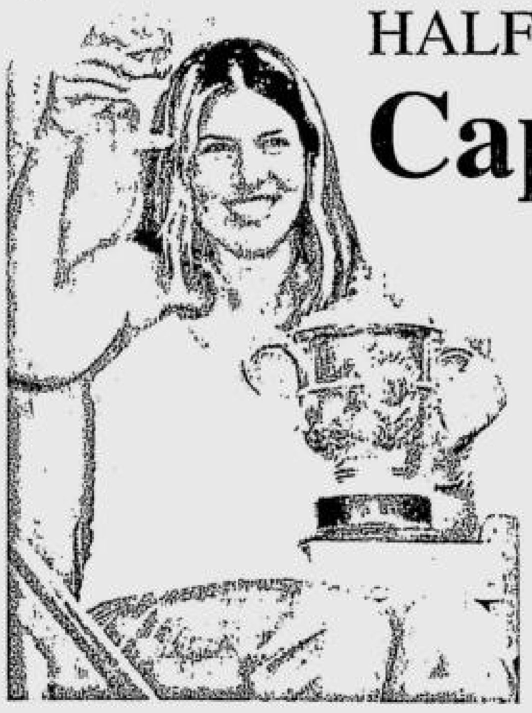
HALFWAY TO 'SLAM'

Capriati rules French Open



CAPRIATI raises a glass of champagne as she holds her French Open trophy during a photo call after her victory over Clijsters. AP

PARIS—Jennifer Capriati took another big step in her comeback from drugs and despair Saturday with a marathon victory in the French Open to move halfway to that rarest tennis achievement—a Grand Slam.

Capriati beat Belgium's Kim Clijsters 1-6, 6-4, 12-10 for her second straight major title, closing the nearly 2-hour victory with a forehand winner down the line.

The Australian Open champion climbed into the stands to hug her father, Stefano, and her brother, Steven, who pushed their way through the crowd to meet her.

"I'm so happy, I can't even describe it," Capriati said after winning on the red clay court where she made tennis history 11 years ago.

The third set was the longest last set in a French Open women's final since 1956.

"I can't believe I just won two Grand Slams in a row," she said.

Next up in Capriati's Grand Slam quest is Wimbledon this month, followed by the US Open later in the summer.

Only three women have won the Grand Slam, with Steffi Graf the last in 1988. Capriati is the first woman to capture the year's first two majors since Monica Seles in 1992.

The victory fortifies Capriati's credentials as one of the most dominant players on the tour and underlines a comeback from drugs and burnout that once threatened to end her career.

But now—stronger, focused and more emotionally grounded—she has proved she can beat the best the women's game can offer, defeating former US Open champion Serena Williams and top-ranked Martina Hingis en route to the final.

In the long third set, the fourth-seeded Capriati served for the match three times but was broken the first two.

At 7-6, she lost serve on an error. At 10-9, she lost serve in a 16-shot rally that Clijsters ended with a forehand passing shot that bounced off the net.

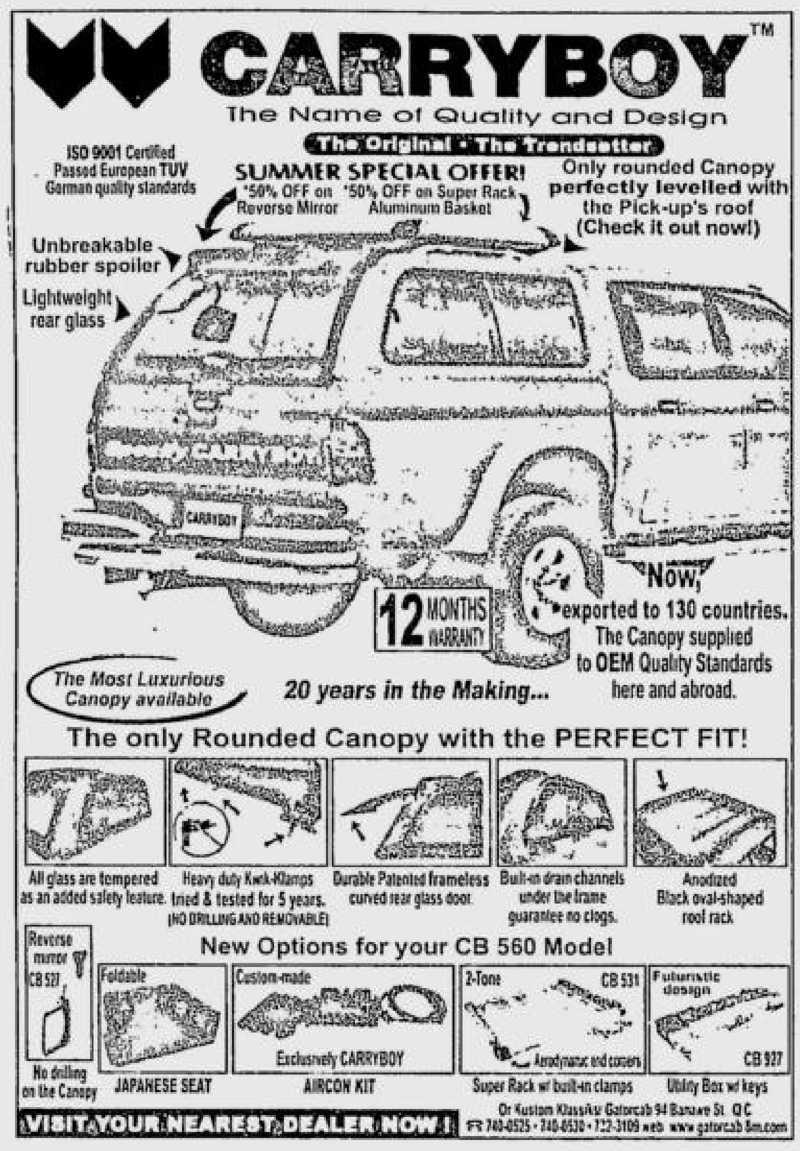
Capriati finally closed the match on her third try, and on her second championship point.

She received the winner's trophy from Chris Evert, a seven-time champion at the French, and Olympic 100-meter champion Maurice Greene. She will receive a winner's check worth $560,000.

Clijsters, who turned 18 Friday, was playing her first Grand Slam final and was the first Belgian player to reach the title match at a major.

On Sunday, Gustavo Kuerten will try to win his second straight French title when he faces Alex Corretja, the runner-up in 1998 in Paris.

That was the Spaniard's best showing in a Grand Slam event. For the next two years, he failed to get past the quarterfinals at Roland Garros or any of the Grand Slam tournaments. *AP*



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GMA cares

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE GOOD news insofar as local sports is concerned is the recent announcement by President Macapagal that her administration is dropping earlier plans to privatize the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., a major source of funding for the cash-strapped Philippine Sports Commission.

"I'm thankful to the President," said PSC chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason. "This augurs well for the future of Philippine sports because Pagcor provides the much-needed funds to the PSC, which, in turn, gives the financial assistance to the National Sports Associations and their pool of athletes."

Tuason had earlier stressed that the balance sheets of the PSC do not make happy reading after Congress slashed its budget last year saying, "It's going to be a big problem if Pagcor is privatized because whatever amount we get from the General Appropriations, we cannot spend them for the NSAs. So it's the NSAs that will really be affected."

Congress had cut the PSC budget from the General Appropriations from P152 million to an unrealistic P119 million which covers the sports agency's expenses for its nationwide grassroots development programs, construction and repair of outmoded sports facilities, including the salaries of PSC staff and some 400 employees.

On the other hand, Pagcor's remittances go to the PSC's National Sports Development Fund which the sports agency uses for the NSA's various international trips abroad such as the Olympics, Asian Game sand Southeast Asian Games, purchase of equipment and supplies, training, allowances of athletes and coaches and running their local programs.

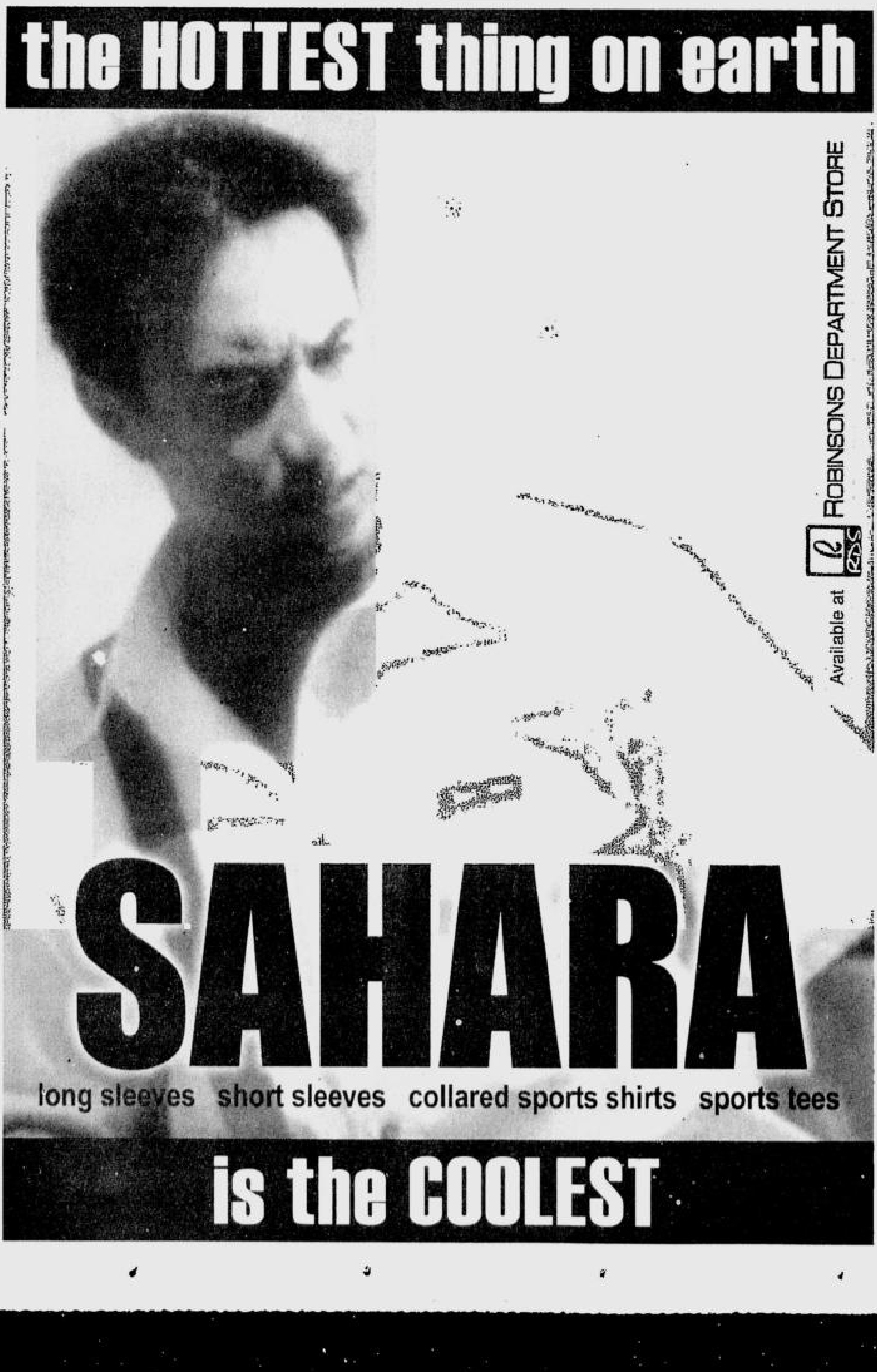
For the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur this September, the PSC has set aside P30 million for the Philippine delegation that is competing in 29 of 32 events

The Macapagal administration dropped the original plan of former President Joseph Estrada to privatize the Pagcor and decided to continue its securitization, hoping to beef up the government's coffers by more than 100 billion. This will, to a large extend, be a big help while the country is struggling for stability.

Pagcor is expected to earn P16.4 billion this year, 10 percent more than it earned in 2000. For the next seven years or the remaining years of its franchise, Department of Finance officials said the government income from Pagcor would reach about P115 billion. The securitization option also allows the government to get in advance its earnings from Pagcor for the next seven years from investment banks that have submitted proposals for the securitization of the gaming agency

* * *

NEVER-ENDING CHAOS. The long and tedious battle the leadership crisis in the Basketball Association of the Philippines has taken would have been unnecessary had Lito Puyat and Tiny Literal observed ordinary rules of sportsmanship and fair play. Simple as that. "Unless," to cite excerpts form a previous Supreme Court ruling, "a clear case is found for arbitrary and brazen violations or applications of rules by officials themselves, it is best for courts to prudently leave things where they are." But in this particular case, I find it necessary for the court to intrude if only to settle once and for all the never-ending BAP conflict. Because without the court's intervention, there will be anarchy and chaos and the basketball election ceases to be a sporting event but one that is tainted by trickery and fraud, favoring one or a few and discriminating against others.



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P5M at stake in 7-cock tilt

A WHOPPING prize of P5 million, the biggest pot ever staked in a single derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum, will be up for grabs in the Araw Ng Kalayaan 7-Cock Derby, which will blast off tomorrow, June 12.

Sponsors of the event are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

Submission of weights in this event promoted by the OPMI is set today, Monday, June 11, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Interested parties may contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341

Participants may field an entry in any of the elimination round schedules on June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23. A maximum of 40 entries will be accommodated per elimination day. All qualifiers will advance to the finals on June 26.

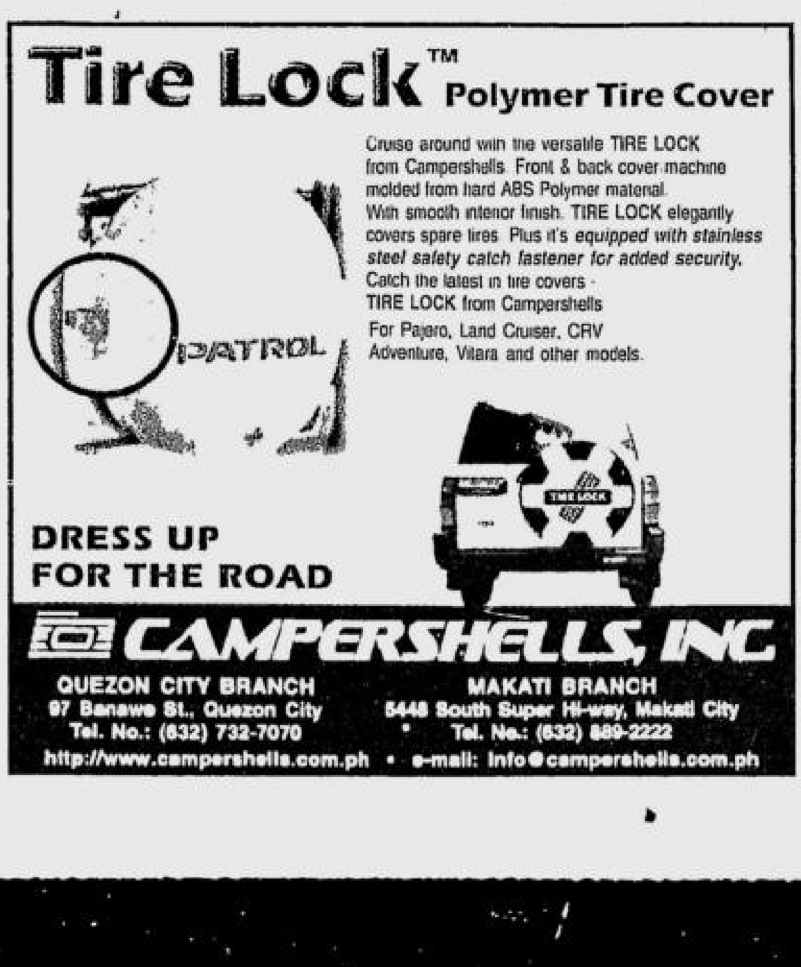
The breakdown of prizes in this event hosted and promoted by the Optimum Property Management Inc (OPMI are as follows: P3 million to the champion, P1.5 million to any five pointers, P200,000 to the runners-up, P250,000 to the handler and P50,000 to the gaffer. Entry fee is only P20,000.

Daly just 1 off Estes

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—John Daly shot an 8-under-par 63 to move within a stroke of Bob Estes, who had a 69 Saturday to keep the lead after three rounds of the St. Jude Classic.

Daly, winless since the 1995 British Open, started the round seven strokes off the pace set by Estes through 36 holes.

But Daly carded eight birdies in his best round since a 63 in the 1991 Las Vegas Invitational. Estes, who tied the course record with a 61 on Thursday, teed off with a four-stoke lead. *AP*



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Negros five nips Marlins

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(San Juan Gym)*
3:00 p.m.—Batangas vs Nueva Ecija
5:30 p.m.—Laguna vs San Juan

By Roy Luarca

GEN. SANTOS CITY—Bong Alvarez failed to deliver when needed most last night, allowing the Negros Slashers to escape with a 93-91 win over the Socsargen Marlins in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase at the packed Gen. Santos City Coliseum here.

At the charity stripe with 3.7 seconds left, Alvarez flubbed the front of his one-and-one and the follow-up by teammate Chris de Jesus got blocked as the Slashers scored their third straight squeaker in as many outings.

That free throw miss negated Alvarez's 30-point output and pulled down the Marlins to their second straight loss.

It was indeed a heartbreaker for the Marlins as they led by as many as 17 points in the third quarter, before Dennis Madrid sparked a 28-point explosion by the Slashers spanning the end of the third quarter and the first five minutes of the fourth.

Madrid was named best player of the game after tallying 19 points, 12 in the pivotal second half.

Earlier, the Cebu Gems shackled the Davao Eagle early, cruising to a 112-90 victory and climbing to third place with a 2-win, 1-loss record.

Putting the clamps on Davao hotshot Mike Manigo, the Gems took the half comfortably (52-28) and never relaxed their guard to continue their recovery after dropping their inaugural game against the Negor Slashers.

The scores:

CEBU 112—Se 22, Mitchell 20, Solis 17, Naron 15, Padilla 13, Lura 10, Montalbo 5, Yu 4, Taguines 4, Mejia 2.

DAVAO 90—Simon 24, Dela Rosa 22, Callao 19, Bernardo 4, Marata 6, Manigo 5, Almonte 5, Bernardo 1.

Quarters: 28-13, 52-28, 78-54, 112-90.

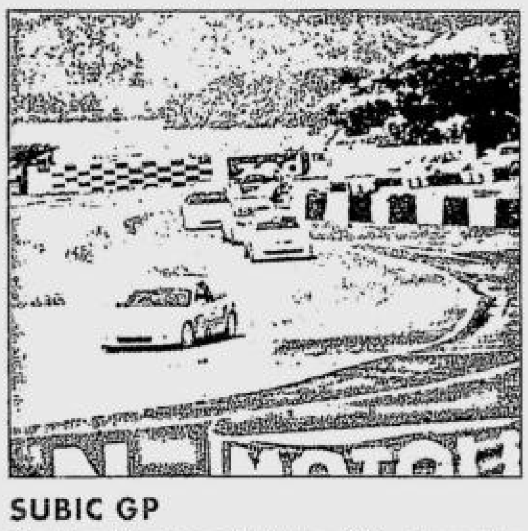
SPORTSWATCH

Pasay derby slated

PASAY City Cockpit's 14th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby, a yearly cockfighting festival that attracts well-known cockers and breeders due to its unique format of providing valuable gifts to participants, will be held on July 19 and 21 (Thursday and Saturday). This year, the PCC management will give away one imported VCD player worth P3,000 to each participant. "Because of Pasay Cockpit's trademark of providing valuable anniversary gifts to participants and paying patrons, bonus prizes and big cash prizes to the winners, this event is highly-awaited by prominent derbyists," chorused pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. This year's guaranteed prize is Pl million while entry fee is P15, 000. "All the anniversary gifts and bonus prizes are for free and will not be deducted from the total prize money," PCC general manager Bobby Azarcon said. Interested parties may contact 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746 (look for Bob, Nilo or Elvie).

Milo footrace June 24

A CASH windfall awaits the top three finishers of the Metro Manila Milo Marathon's qualifying event on June 24. Extended to a full 42km marathon upon the clamor of the country's long distance runners, corporate sponsor Nestle Philippines also increased the prizes in the inaugural event with P30,000, P20,000, and P10,000 going to the first three placers in both the men's and women's divisions. Starting and finishing at the PICC grounds at the Cultural Center Complex in Roxas Boulevard, the race will use the former PAL Manila International Marathon route that will take the runners through the cities of Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Makati, Mandaluyong, and San Juan, according to Milo Marathon national race organizer Rudy Biscocho.Biscocho has set satellite registration centers outside the main registration center at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. in Annapolis St. in Greenhills.



SUBIC GP

Kookiee Ramirez of Petron-SRA shows the way in this bit of action in the Blaze super saloon race, centerpiece event of the Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway recently. Ramirez topped the event to move into contention in this annual series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron.

US bets coming

LEADING cocker-breeders from the United States are arriving in full force for the blockbuster World Slasher 8-Cock derby on June 18, 20 and 22 a the Araneta Coliseum. In fact, some of the Americans who are already in town are gracing the season-ending NCA 7-Cock Derby at 5 p.m. today (Monday) and on Wednesday, June 13, at the Big Dome.

Among the confirmed competitors are Roger Roberts of Atlanta, Georgia, whose entry, Hatchets-Thunder-bird Firefly IV, won the first leg of the international event last January in a brilliant team-up with coliseum owner Nene Araneta.

Silver Story 1 win shy of sweep

IT'S one to go for Silver Story.

The classy grey colt routed the field in the JV Ongpin Cup yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome and moved on the threshold of sweeping the 2001 local Triple Crown series.

Only the Horseman's Cup, the last jewel of the annual tests among three-year-old horses, remains in Silver Story's way of joining the elite list of former champions.

If he wins the July 8 event, Silver Story would become the eighth horse to rule all three legs of the United States-patterned contest which began in 1978.

"*Basta nasa magandang kundisyon malaki ang pag-asang ma*-sweep *nya* (As long as he's in good condition there's a strong chance that he'll score a sweep)," said star jockey Jonathan Hernandez after skippering the heavy favorite to a seven-length victory yesterday.

The Ongpin Cup triumph was worth P1 million, boosting Silver Story's earnings past the P6-million mark.

Sky Hawk mirrored his finish in the first leg and got P375,000, while Ilocandia Slew arrived third (P208,500), nipping Hammerhead (P83,500) at the wire.

Silver Story, attracting sales of P1,204,290 out of P1,456,670, covered the 1,900 race in 2:01 flat (17-23-26.5-26-28.5).

The Horseman's Cup, also scheduled at San Lazaro, will be disputed over the seldom-used 2,045-meter distance.

Fair and Square was the first TC champion, pulling off the feat in 1981. The others are Skywalker (1983), Time Master (1987), Magic Showtime (1988), Sun Dancer (1989), Strong Material (1996) and Real Top (1997).

Edwin Villanueva

Point Given triumphs

NEW YORK—Preakness winner Point Given, sometimes called a clown by trainer Bob Baffert because of his antics in the morning, won the Belmont Stakes in no-nonsense fashion Saturday, leaving eight rivals struggling in his wake.

Kentucky Derby-winner Monarchos finished third, behind AP Valentine.

Point Given, a strapping chestnut colt, moved into the lead early on the final turn and then turned the 2.4-kilometer (1.5-mile) Belmont into a one-horse show in the stretch.

His time of 2 minutes, 26 2-5 seconds tied him with Risen Star and Affirmed for the fourth fastest time in Belmont history. Only Secretariat, Easy Goer and AP Indy ran faster.

AP Valentine's second-place finish gave trainer Nick Zito his fifth runner-up finish in 11 Belmonts, with no victories. *AP*

Crucial meeting

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

WITH a 2-3-2 home-road format in the NBA Finals, the scrappy and resilient Philadelphia 76ers will host the vulnerable defending NBA champion LA Lakers for the third, fourth and fifth games of the best-of-seven title series.

The crucial Game Three will be played at the sellout-assured First Union Center today (Manila time, 7:30 a.m.), with the series deadlocked at 1-1.

The 2-3-2 scheme has been utilized 20 times during the NBA Finals in the league's 54 previous campaigns—1949, 1953, 1954, 1955 and from 1985 thereon. Only four times did the team with the three middle games at home win the series—the 1985 LA Lakers, 1993 Chicago Bulls, 1995 Houston Rockets and 1998 Bulls.

There have bee only four 3-0 sweeps in the three middle games—one by the home outfit (1955 Fort Wayne Pistons) and three by the road squad (1953) Minneapolis Lakers, 1990 Detroit Pistons an d191 Chicago Bulls).

Is history about to repeat itself?

The 76ers, heavy underdogs in pre-NBA Finals prognostications, can do just that by sweeping the next three games at home. The possibility is no longer remote with the way Allen Iverson and company handled the Lakers in the first two games in LA.

Fact is, the Lakers even had to work very hard to salvage Game Two (98-89) after the 76ers stole the series opener, 107-101, in overtime.

Philly could have easily gone 2-0 if it had fared better from the free-throw line (6-for-16 in the fourth quarter). Iverson, after a sizzling 48-point performance in Game One (including a perfect 9-for-9 from the charity stripes), was an uncharacteristic 0-for-4 from the line in Game two and struggled with a 10-for-29 field shooting for only 23 points.

Of course, the same could be said for LA in the first game. The outcome probably would have been different if Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal, despite a 44-point, 20-rebound effort, did not miss 12 of his 22 freebies.

Regardless, the split at the Staples Center proved that the Lakers are far from being invincible.

No comeback hints for golf-playing MJ

JORDAN

PRESTO, Pennsylvania—An inordinate number of spectators wearing red sleeveless jerseys with the number "23" and the name "Jordan" printed across the back were on hand for the start of a charity golf tournament.

Speculation that Michael Jordan, who played in the Mario Lemieux Celebrity Invitational, would trade his wingtips for high-tops four years after his second retirement from the NBA generated excitement at almost every hole.

Jordan said nothing to fans or reporters about a possible comeback as he shot a 7-over-par 79 to Lemieux's 78 on Friday.

Rather, he looked every bit the retiree, drawing on an 8-inch cigar and playing a slow-paced round with a group of Toyota employees at The Club at Nevillewood, just south of Pittsburgh.

Richard Kline of Pittsburgh was among the hundreds of people following Jordan's every swing and step.

"I don't know if Jordan could make it back and be the dominant player he was," Kline said. "But basketball hasn't been the same without him, that's for sure."

Others agreed that if anyone could relaunch an NBA career a second time at age 38, it would be Jordan.

While no one expected him to drop a 12-foot (3.6-meter) putt and joyously let slip the now-famous faxed statement, "I'm back" which marked his first comeback - he had two return-to-the-court boosters playing nearby in Lemieux and Charles Barkley.

Lemieux was able to grace his own tournament Friday courtesy of the New Jersey Devils, who ended his own celebrated comeback season by eliminating the Pittsburgh Penguins in the NHL's Eastern Conference Finals.

The 35-year-old Lemieux lead the Penguins in playoff scoring, and had 35 goals and 41 assists in 43 games since his midseason return. *AP*

Sixers aim: Stop . . .

(From page A24)

the year. But Mutombo shut down O'Neal late in the fourth quarter and overtime of Game 1.

On Friday, O'Neal got off to a slow start. He had two points when Mutombo went to the bench for a stretch of e 8:56 from the end of the first quarter to the middle of the second.

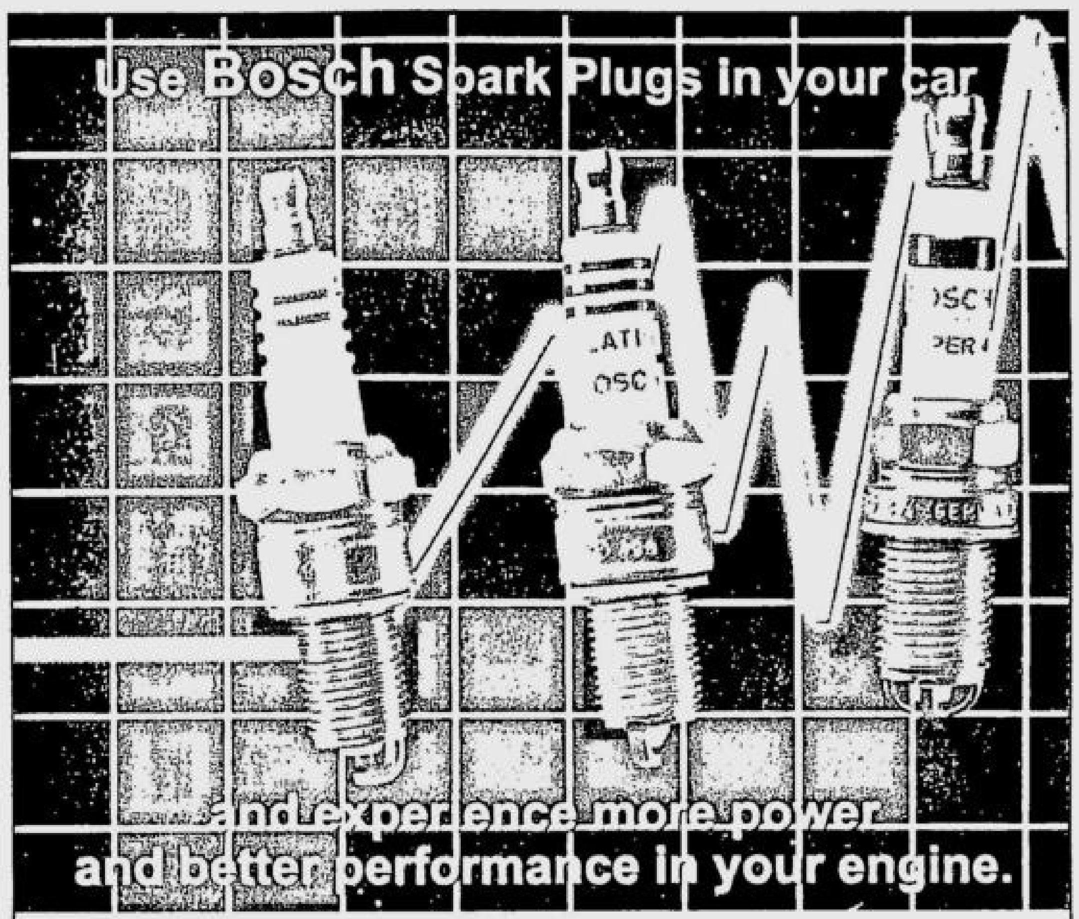
Unlike in Game 1, when he scored 14 during a long absence by Mutombo, O'Neal didn't take advantage of playing against Matt Geiger and Todd MacCulloch. He scored only five points while Mutombo was out, but got six straight and 10 of 12 after Mutombo returned.

Philadelphia increased its lead from one point to seven while Mutombo sat.

"He's very tough. He's tough every night," said MacCulloch, who scored 13 points in 16 minutes despite getting a couple shots blocked by O'Neal. "The guy is huge and they're looking to get him the ball and he zeros in on the basket and does his best to get there. He's tough on both ends. He's quick and gets to balls. He's a hard guy to play against."

Mutombo cut his tongue during the first half and needed three stitches to close the gash after the game.

"When teams double, I look to get my other guys involved," O'Neal said. "They shot the ball good. The Sixers are just a little feistier. They've been doing it all year. They just scratch and claw." *AP*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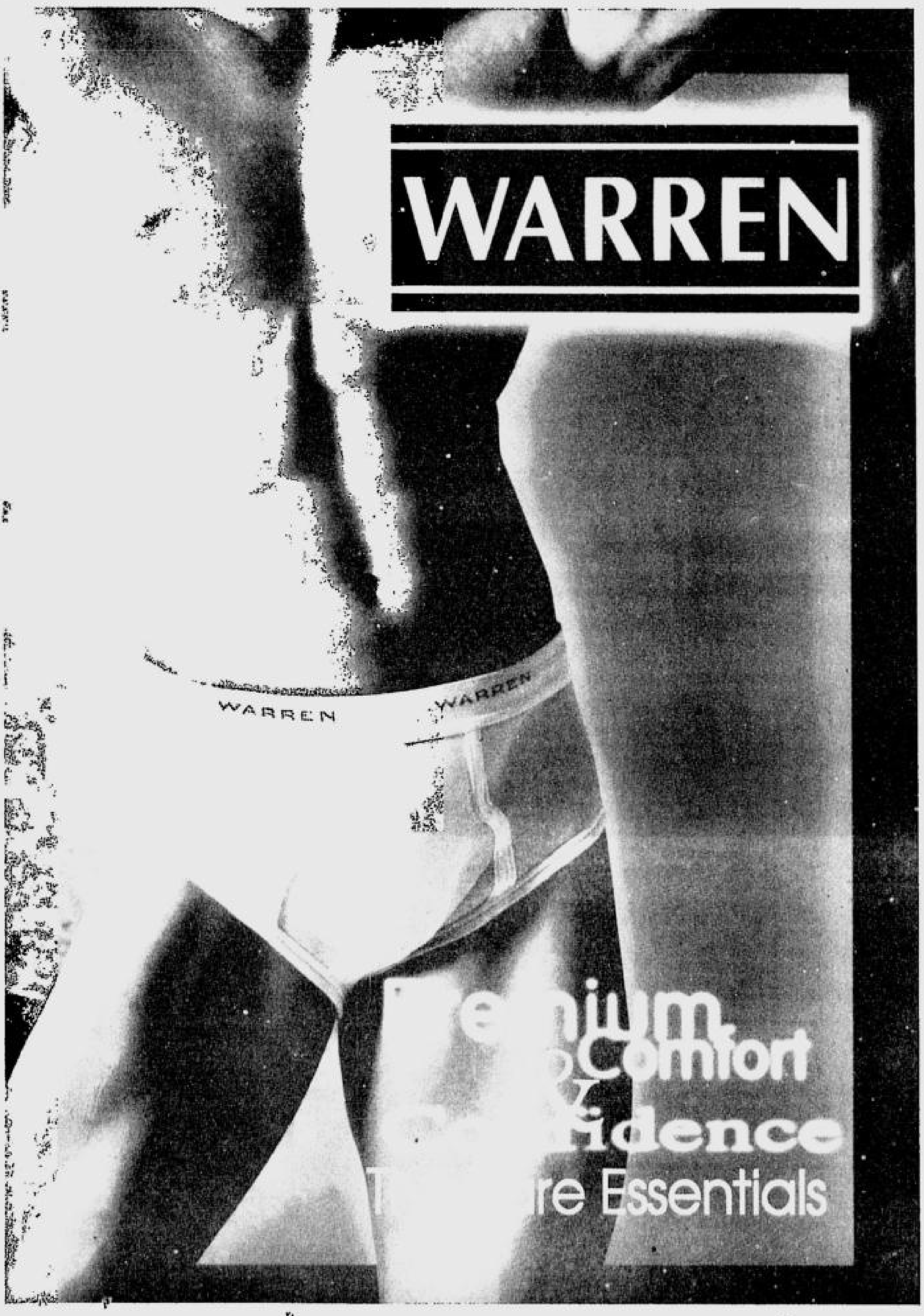

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ◼ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Gomez tallies 39 victories

NM John Paul Gomez, the 15-year-old reigning national junior champion, netted a total of 39 wins and three draws out of 42 boards in his simultaneous exhibition matches Saturday during the opening of the fourth series of the Milo Checkmate clinic at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and Greenhills Shopping Center. His draws came from 16-year-old Jayveelyn Fronda, Mary Claire Cuesta and Jonalden Ferrer.

Viva telecast

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast Game Three of the NBA Finals between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Philadelphia 76ers today (Monday, June 11) at 11:30 a.m. on RPN-9, with a replay at 5:30p.m on IBC-13.

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GAME 3 TODAY

Sixers aim: Stop Shaq

PHILADELPHIA—Larry Brown doesn't believe in the Hack-a-Shaq philosophy. It might've cost the Philadelphia 76ers a victory in Game 2 of the NBA Finals.

After the Sixers cut a 13-point deficit to three points with just over two minutes left in Friday night's game, Derek Fisher nailed a wide-open 3-pointer off a pass from Shaquille O'Neal.

Fisher's shot stopped a 13-3 run by Philadelphia and sent the Los Angeles Lakers to a 98-89 victory that evened the best-of-seven series 1-1.

Sixers center Dikembe Mutombo only had three fouls at the time and could've used one on O'Neal. Instead, the Sixers double-teamed O'Neal when he got the ball and the big man found Fisher for an open 3.

"Biggest play of the game was when he kicked it out to Fisher," Brown said. "If I was smart, maybe I would have told our guys to foul when he got it, but I don't believe in that."

O'Neal nearly registered a quadruple-double with 28 points, 20 rebounds, nine assists and eight blocks. But he missed six free throws and is only 14-of-32 from the foul line in two games.

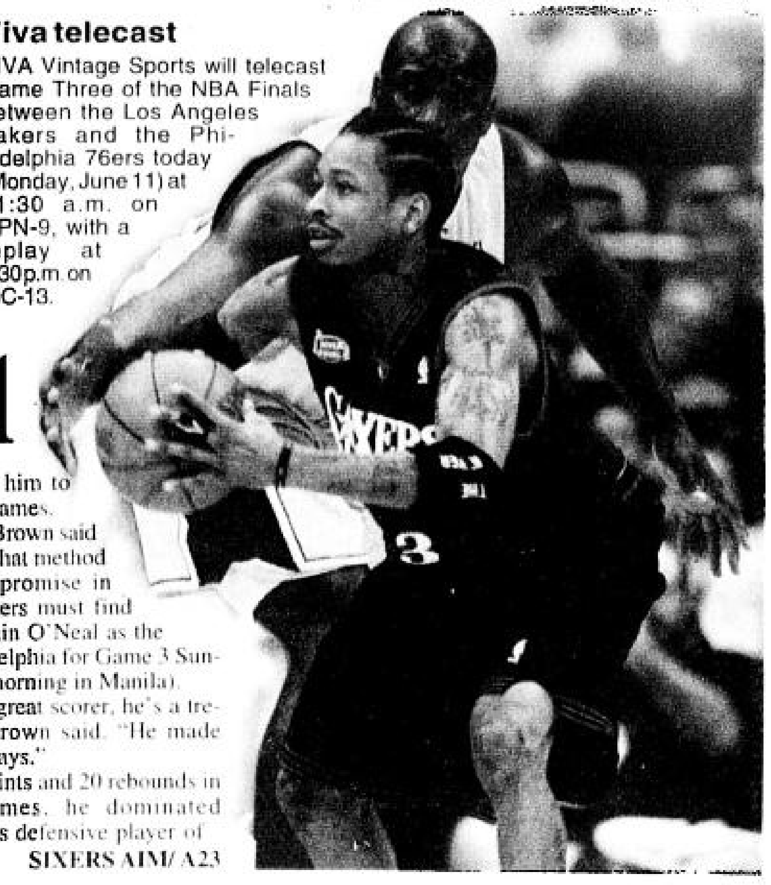
Other teams in the past have taken advantage of O'Neal's poor foul shooting by consistently sending him to the line late in close games.

Before the series, Brown said he wouldn't employ that method and stuck with his promise in Game 2. So, the Sixers must find another way to contain O'Neal as the series shifts to Philadelphia for Game 3 Sunday night (Monday morning in Manila).

"He's not only a great scorer, he's a tremendous passer," Brown said. "He made some unbelievable plays."

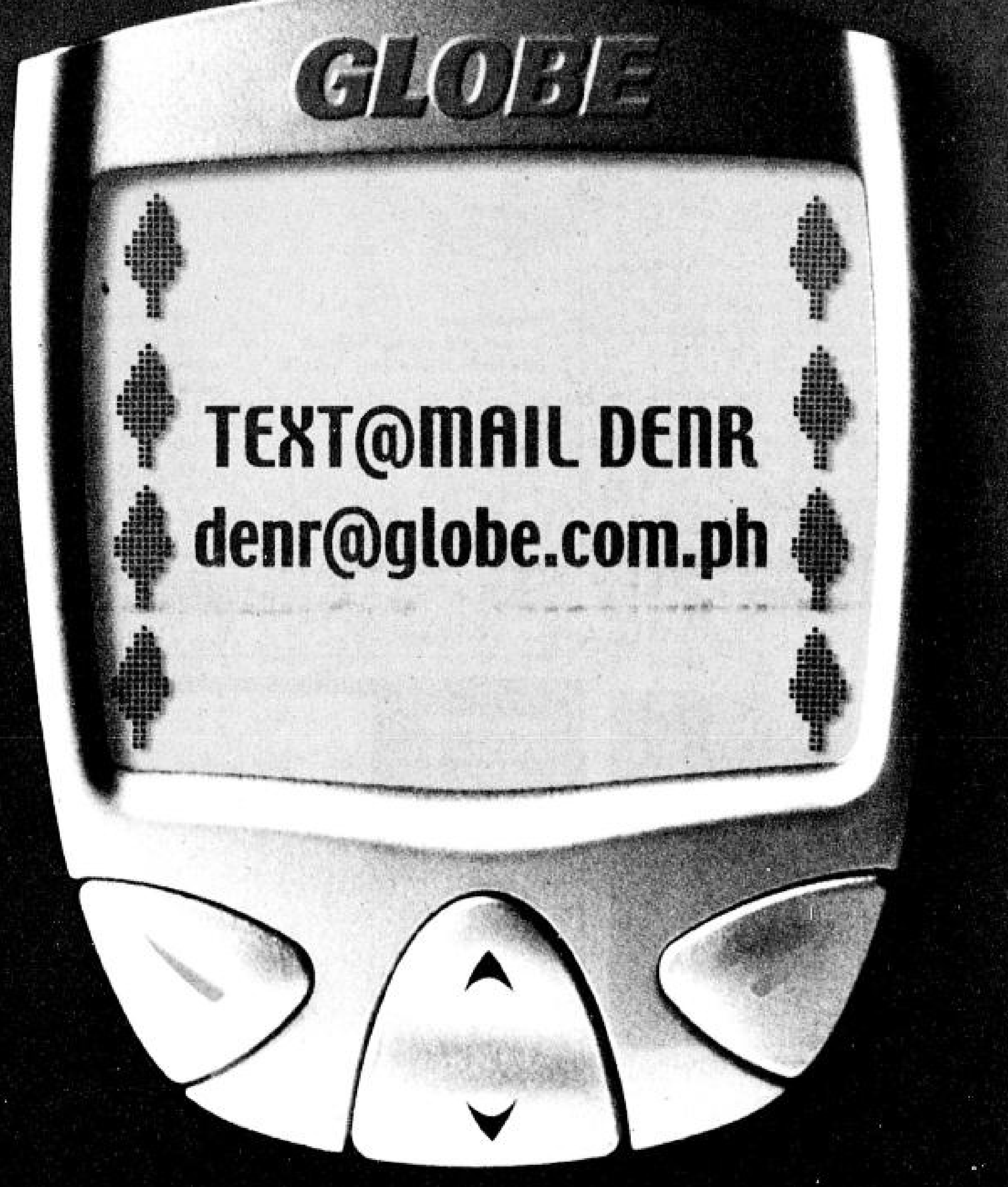
O'Neal had 44 points and 20 rebounds in the opener. At times, he dominated Mutombo, the NBA's defensive player of

SIXERS AIM/ A23



O'NEAL hounds Iverson in Game 2. AP

Green power.



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- Edit, then enter email address
- OK
9. SUBJECT (Apply the same sequence in step # 8)
10. BODY (the message) - (Apply the same sequence in step# 8)
11. SEND

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and National Resources

R. Bull halts Mobiline; Gin prevails

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Ynares Center)
5:15 p.m.—Shell vs Pop Cola
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs SMB

BATANG Red Bull ruined Jerod Ward's one-man show using just plain team-game to beat Mobiline, 97-92, last night and post its first win in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sure, Ward still managed to score 52 points but he got his fifth foul as early as in the third quarter, was rendered useless on defense before eventually fouling out with still four minutes left.

"We know that his mentality is to shoot," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "He's preserving himself for offense and we made him work on defense."

Antonio Lang and Devonn Harp took the job of challenging Ward's spotty defense, which eventually put the high-scoring Phone Pal into foul trouble.

"We thought that's the key to limit his effectiveness on offense," added Guiao.

It wasn't the only reason, though, as the Thunder unleashed a well-balanced offense through deft ball distribution that opened paths for locals Lowell Briones, Jimwell Torion, and Ato Agustin.

In contrast, Mobiline failed to devise specific plays to highlight Ward's scoring prowess, forcing the 6-foot-6 import to fire away at will instead of waiting for the offense to settle down.

Ryan Fletcher redeemed himself from an endgame blunder by making two free throws in the final 8.5 seconds as Barangay Ginebra edged Purefoods, 82-78, in the second game. It was the Gin Kings' first win for a 1-1 record, while the Hotdogs fell to 0-2.

Scores:

RED BULL 97—Lang 29, Briones 14, Harp 13, Agustin 12, Torion 10, Pennisi 6, Velanzuela 6, Mendoza 5, Miller 2, Raymundo 0.

MOBILINE 92—Ward 52, Ejercito 11, Codinera 10, Ravena 5, Fran 4, Gonzales 4, Camaso 4, Cui 2, Babilonia 0, Demape 0.

Quarters: 24-22, 45-40, 66-68, 97-92.

Boysen snares 2nd PYBL title

BY DENNIS EROA

PBL GAMES TOMOROW (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—GIV Beauty Soap vs Shark Energy
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Ana Freezers

MULTITITLED Boysen-MLQU outlasted UP, 69-62 and captured its second consecutive PYBL Cup title last Saturday at the Makati Coliseum.

Sharpshooter Caesar Rivera, Edelito Saygo and power-playing Theody Habelito sizzled in the fourth quarter as Boysen-MLQU kept UP at bay in that stretch.

"Everybody contributed to the victory," said triumphant mentor Rex Manansala. The Paint Experts struggled in the early going of the tournament but recovered in time to frustrate fellow semifinalists UP Waterfront, Regent Cheeseballs and University of Assumption.

Team manager Vicki Chan described the victory as "sweet and beautiful."

Aside from two PYBL titles, Boysen-MLQU also won the inaugural National Basketball League crown on top of countless Fil-Chinese cage championships, Colleges and Universities and Schools Association and National Intercollegiate titles.

In the battle for third spot, University of Assumption dumped Regent Cheeseballs, 91-76.

In the PBL showcase, MC Caceres of Shark and Bravo won the slam dunk and the three-point shooting contest, respectively.

The scores:

BOYSEN-MLQU 69—Saygo 16, Habelito 16, Rivera 16, Limbo 13, Conmigo 6, Medenilla 2, Mercado 0, Mallari 0.

UP 62—Bravo 28, Santos 11, Bornancin 11, Madarang 5, Jomalesa 4, Almeda 3, Celo 0, Arnaiz 0, Cervantes 0, Nunag 0.

Quarters: 13-20, 32-34, 42-41, 69-62.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals, Lakers vs 76ers, Game 3 at 7:30 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on ESPN and at 11:30 a.m. on RPN 9 (r – 5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)
This Week in the NBA at 11:30 a.m. on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 11 p.m. on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
LPGA Wegmans Rochester International, Final Round at 5 p.m. on ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day—Canadian Grand Prix at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
2001 F1 World Championships—Canadian Grand Prix at 11:45 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chequered Flag—Canadian Grand Prix at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

▩ Amok kills 1, stabs 3 A27
▩ Intramuros in danger A28

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ Arroyo 'walks through past' A29

More cops sent to Taguig

DARLENE OF THE CROWD RANDY HORMILLOSA

Glowing with victory are 2001 Mutya ng Pilipinas Darlene Carbungco (center), third runner-up Mary Lisa Diño (left) and first runner-up Michelle Penez following their selection Saturday night.

BY NELSON F. FLORES

SOUTHERN Police District Office authorities have sent additional policemen to the coastal town of Taguig to prevent the outbreak of violence that could arise during the proclamation today of the winner in the May 14 mayoral election.

Senior Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPDO director, said the additional policemen would be posted in strategic parts of Taguig, especially in the town hall.

He said the policemen were directed to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with the public.

But he also warned that the lawmen would not hesitate to arrest those who would cause trouble,

MORE/ A26

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MONDAY, JUNE 11 912-8983

'A pact between thieves'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE MILITANT labor group Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) is planning to ask the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the increase of Maynilad Water's rate starting next month.

Victor Briz, BMP acting head, said in a press statement yesterday that his group is considering the filing of a petition before the Supreme Court to stop the water utility firm's plan to collect an additional P4.75 per cubic meter from consumers in Metro Manila's west zone which it covers.

Friday night, the government and the Lopez-owned Maynilad signed a memorandum of cooperation, allowing Maynilad to recover foreign exchange losses amounting to P2.7 billion in the next 18 months through the rate increase.

Briz called the agreement "a pact between thieves."

He said the price increase "would cause grave damage to the standard of living of millions."

He said BMP leaders are talking with their lawyers to study the feasibility of filing the petition.

This is the second time this year that Maynilad is increasing its rate.

Early this year, Maynilad was allowed to raise its basic rate by 45 centavos on account of inflation and the depreciation of the peso.

Briz questioned the "generosity" of the government in granting Maynilad's petition for an increase and its "magnanimity" in allowing the private firm not to pay concession fees immediately.

'A PACT/ A26

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Bulletin reporter's car stolen while parked outside ABS-CBN

A SILVER-GRAY Toyota Corolla owned by Manila Bulletin reporter Ronniel de Guzman was stolen late Saturday night outside the ABS-CBN complex in Quezon City.

De Guzman said he parked his car shortly after 11 p.m. along Fernando Lopez Street, in front of the audience entrance of ABS-CBN. When he returned about 2 a.m., the car was no longer there, he said.

The car, a 1997 model (UTT 622), has scratch marks on the rear bumper and dents on the left fender and on the side. It contained valuables like a Canon EOS-5 camera with lenses worth more than P150,000, issued to De Guzman by Manila Bulletin, the reporter said.

De Guzman also left his driver's license and press ID at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) inside the car.

He immediately reported the theft to the Philippine National Police Substation 3 near ABS-CBN. Inspector Rexton Sawi took the complaint.

De Guzman told Sawi that there were other cars parked in the same area where he left his car. Across the street were stores with vendors who were already sleeping, he said.

Sawi told De Guzman there have been several car theft incidents reported in the area, within the periphery of the network. Some of the victims were ABS-CBN employees and executives, the policeman said.

Sawi said "Keep on dancing" cohost Franco Laurel lost a Pajero. The Gallant vehicle of "Tabing-Ilog" director Malou Sevilla was also stolen. Dong Puno, former ABS-CBN senior vice president for news and public affairs, was also a victim.

Sawi added that car theft has been rampant in South Triangle in Quezon City. The area covers Edsa-Timog, West Avenue, Tomas Morato, Panay Avenue and ABS-CBN.

This month alone, there have been five reported car theft cases in the area, Sawi said. The substation has only five policemen and a rundown police vehicle, noted De Guzman.

A civilian guard of ABS-CBN who made the rounds of the outer periphery of the network said he saw De Guzman's car about 11:30 p.m. He said he was alone manning the entire area.

'Hatchet job'

BARANGAY leaders in the sixth district of Manila have issued a resolution to condemn what they termed as a political hatchet job against congressman-elect Mark Jimenez.

In a joint resolution signed by 120 of the 139 barangay chairs in Manila's sixth district, the local leaders called for a halt to dirty politics. Jimenez, former US-based businessman, defeated former congressman and councilor Pablo Ocampo in the May 14 elections, to succeed Ocampo's daughter, three-term Rep. Sandra Ocampo.

Last Friday, so-called members of civil society rallied in front of the Department of Justice building to demand for the speedy extradition of Jimenez, who is facing a string of charges in the US.

The demonstrators brought a live pig dressed in clothes to highlight what they alleged was the betrayal of the Philippine justice system in favor of Jimenez.

The barangay chairs claimed their investigation of the incident showed "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the rally was actually the handiwork of the Ocampos.

"The rally was an obvious attempt to mislead the people into thinking that there is a clamor for the extradition of Mark Jimenez," the barangay leader. The truth is, the rally was politically motivated and a selfish attempt to thwart the political will of the sovereign people of Manila's 6th District."

Carlos Castañeda, chair of the district's Association of Barangay Chairmen (ABC), said the local leaders would also determine if those responsible for the rally could be slapped with any civil or criminal liability.

In their resolution, the barangay chairs alleged that key personalities in the rally were positively identified as supporters of the Ocampos. This included one of the rally leaders holding a megaphone, barangay kagawad Vener Alpapara, who was an emcee in the Ocampo political rallies during the campaign.

Alpapara was positively identified by her barangay chair, Reynaldo Ore.

Many other known Ocampo supporters also attended the DoJ rally, including barangay *kagawads* Cell Torres and Julle Garcia, according to the barangay chairs.

"What is shameful here is the misuse of the term 'civil society' in the furtherance of traditional, dirty politics," their statement said. "The political opponents of Representative Jimenez should have just gracefully given way to the will of the electorate, instead of resorting to dirty tricks and a smear campaign."

Worker kidnaps niece in bid to win back wife and child

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CONSTRUCTION worker was arrested Saturday night for kidnapping his 6-year-old niece in an effort to win back his wife and child who had left him because of drug habits, Valenzuela City police said.

Jessie Navarro, 22, a resident of Maxima Urutia Street in Barangay Arkong Bato in Valenzuela, is facing kidnapping charges for abducting his niece, Jemalyn Tolda.

The Valenzuela City Prosecutor's Office recommended no bail for Navarro's temporary release.

Navarro abducted the girl to force his wife and child to return home, according to the Valenzuela Police station Investigation Bureau.

Navarro's wife and child had left him for his irresponsible ways and for being an alleged drug addict, investigators said.

Police said Navarro kidnapped his niece by fetching her about 5 p.m. Friday at the San Diego Elementary School.

Later that night, Navarro contacted the girl's family by cellular phone and said he would release her only if his wife and child would return to him, police said.

The family refused to negotiate and reported the abduction to the Valenzuela police chief, Supt. Nemesio Neron.

A pedicab driver, whom Navarro hired when he fetched the girl from school, later told Tolda's family that the girl was brought somewhere in Dagat-Dagatan.

The following day, police managed to identify the house where Navarro was detaining the girl. After an emotional negotiation with police and his family, Navarro decided to release the girl and then he surrendered.

Worker electrocuted, falls from building

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CONSTRUCTION worker was electrocuted and then fell from the top of a medium-rise building that was under construction in Valenzuela City Saturday morning.

Members of the Valenzuela Police Station Investigation Bureau identified the victim as Edgar Vallejos, 28, a resident of Guizon Street in Daang Bakal, Tondo, Manila.

Vallejos and other workers were installing galvanized iron sheets at the top of the building on J. Angeles Street in Barangay Paso de Blas, Valenzuela when the accident occurred, investigators said.

Vallejos was electrocuted when the metal bar he was holding touched a high-tension wire, police said. He then fell face first on the concrete pavement.

He suffered multiple fractures and his body was also severely burned, police said. He died while undergoing treatment at the Fatima Medical Center in nearby Barangay Marulas.

PRESENT during the turnover were (from left) Ayala Foundation co-vice chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ABS-CBN managing director Gina Lopez, Japanese Embassy counselor for economic affairs Takashi Hoshiyama, and MWSS administrator Jose Mabanta.

Ayala donates P4-M equipment for La Mesa restoration work

AYALA Foundation Inc. recently assisted in turning over almost P4 million worth of equipment solicited from the Japanese government to the La Mesa reforestation project.

The equipment will be helpful in reforesting and protecting the La Mesa watershed, an important first step in ensuring that Metro Manila's 12 million residents' water needs are met.

The La Mesa reforestation project is a joint project of Bantay Kalikasan of ABS-CBN Foundation, Maynilad Water Services Inc., Manila Water Co., and the Ayala Group of Companies.

Present during the turnover were Fernando Zobel de Ayala, co-vice chair of Ayala Foundation; Gina Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation; and Mr. Takashi Hoshiyama, counselor for economic affairs, Japan Embassy.

"The La Mesa reforestation project is extremely significant and (very deserving of) receiving Japanese official assistance," Hoshiyama noted. "We are happy to participate in this project with our distinguished Filipino colleagues."

The Ayala Group pledged to raise funds to reforest 100 hectares of the watershed's remaining 1,000-hectare forest area. Illegal timbering, quarrying, and destructive farming threaten to wipe out what little forest is left in the 2,700-hectare watershed.

"If these activities go on, La Mesa Dam will be devoid of precious forest cover in five years," said Aurora Tolentino, executive director of Ayala Foundation. "What happens in La Mesa will impact on the quality of life in Metro Manila. Thus, Metro Manilans need to be aware and to improve means to protect the watersheds."

The project aims to reforest La Mesa in three years. The additional forest cover will allow the watershed, which holds water from the Ipo and Angat dams, to continue supplying water for Metro Manila's rapidly increasing population.

According to Mario Mendoza, program director of Bantay Kalikasan, 300 hectares out of the total 2,700-hectare watershed have already been reforested with mode than 20 species of Philippine trees. Mendoza said that the trees have exhibited a survival rate of 90 percent. Plans are underway to reforest 250 hectares this year.

Vehicles, backpack sprayers, and handheld radios were among the donations turned over by the Ayala Foundation for the project. Funds were also allocated to finance the construction of view decks to help maintain and protect the watershed's forest area.

MWSS is working closely with the military to repair breaches in the 29-km perimeter wall to put a stop to *kaingin* or slash-and-burn logging.

Through the La Mesa reforestation project, Ayala Foundation hopes to raise public awareness of the importance of Manila's watersheds. Last year, it gathered 300 Ayala Group employees to plant mahogany saplings and paint the perimeter wall of La Mesa along Litex Road.

Manila Water is also planning an information campaign on protecting the La Mesa watershed.

More cops sent to Taguig

(From page A25)

whether they are supporters of incumbent Mayor Ricardo Papa or of his winning rival Freddie Tinga.

Gutierrez said he also told his men to remain neutral in the on-going political contest.

"Whoever engages in partisan politics, and whatever their rank is, would face administrative sanction and dismissal from service," Gutierrez said.

Former Pateros-Taguig Rep. Dante Tinga warned that all attempts "to thwart the will of the people" of Taguig would have disastrous results. He said the people have spoken and their will should be respected.

Tinga said his son Freddie won the mayoral race with 63,114 votes over incumbent Mayor Ricardo Papa's 57,794 votes, based on copies of election returns in the Tingas' possession.

Taguig has 206,000 registered voters.

Tinga earlier accused Sen. Rene Cayetano and his congressman-elect son Allan of pressuring local election officials to stall the official proclamation of the winner.

Tinga said his son should already have been proclaimed as mayor if not for the meddling of the Cayetanos.

Tinga also accused Papa and his supporters of using prisoners to harass Tinga supporters. He alleged that a number of their local leaders were harassed and threatened by goons identified with Papa's camp.

On Saturday, Commission on Elections Commissioner Resureccion Borra directed the Papa camp to tell the incumbent mayor's followers to immediately disperse the barricade they have put up at the town hall.

Borra issued the order after Freddie Tinga's lawyer Sixto Brillantes complained to the commissioners that Papa's supporters barricaded the town hall and prevented the Taguig board of canvassers from retrieving election returns that were still in the hall.

The Taguig board of canvassers headed by Emilio Santos was directed by Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo to transfer the venue of the canvassing from the town hall to the Comelec central office due to the political tension.

'A pact between thieves'

(From page A25)

"It is a lopsided agreement borne out of Maynilad's multimillion blackmail of not paying concession fees since March when its demand for a fee hike was not granted," Briz said.

During the signing of the memorandum Friday night at Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati, members of the BMP, Sanlakas and the Freedom from Debt Coalition barged into the meeting venue and protested the alleged connivance between the government and Maynilad.

Briz said protest actions like these would continue and even escalate to put pressure on Maynilad.

"Workers and poor are already drowning in high prices," he said.

The government earlier turned down Maynilad's request for an automatic currency exchange rate mechanism similar to those of other utilities.

When Maynilad won the bidding for the servicing of Metro Manila's west zone, it absorbed the bulk of the MWSS's foreign loans amounting to $800 million.

In March, Maynilad stopped paying its debt obligations to the MWSS after the government turned down the firm's request for an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment scheme.

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Amok kills 1, stabs 3

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN ALLEGED drug addict ran amuck yesterday morning in Sta. Cruz, Manila and killed one man and stabbed three others who refused to give him a drink of beer.

Marvin Malbosa, 24, of Antipolo Street, Sta. Cruz, died after he was stabbed in the chest by Charlie Zamora, 30, a tricycle driver and resident of Natividad Street, also in Sta. Cruz, about 3:30 a.m., said investigator SPO1 Virgo Villareal.

Zamora is at large, police said.

Members of the Western Police District Homicide Division identified the wounded victims as Angelito Salustiano, 27, said to be a student of the Far Eastern University, Anthony Villanueva, 24, and Aldrin Baña, 22.

Salustiano, a resident of Natividad Street, Sta. Cruz, was still in critical condition at the Chinese General Hospital as of yesterday afternoon, investigators said. He suffered a stab wound in the left side of the body.

Police said Zamora, a known drug addict in his area, went wild when the other men refused to give him beer during a drinking session, witness Joel Marcelo, 19, told investigators.

The men were drinking to celebrate the birthday of their friend Robert Duque in the latter's house on Oroquieta Street, investigators said.

In the middle of the drinking, Zamora insisted that he join the celebration, Marcelo told police. But after having several glasses of beer, Zamora became unruly and started insulting Duque's mother, Marcelo said.

To avoid further trouble, the other men refused to give him any more beer and decided to continue their drinking outside the house, the witness added.

But Zamora followed them and began berating Malbosa, who ignored him. Zamora left the group and returned five minutes later with a fan knife, police said.

Zamora challenged the other men to a fight and then he stabbed Malbosa, police said. The group ganged up on Zamora, but he managed to free himself.

He then chased the others and stabbed three of them.

Villanueva was stabbed just above his genitals and in the right side of the body. He was brought to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Baña was wounded in the left wrist and was treated at the Chinese General Hospital.

SUNDAY WITH GMA JOANBONDOC

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo listens to what children have to say during the "Handog sa Pamilya" activities in Malacañang. The President also distributed school supplies to the children and rice to their parents, and even shared cotton candy with the kids.

Driver punches officer

A TRICYCLE driver yesterday landed in jail after punching an off-duty policeman over a minor mishap in Mandaluyong City.

Joepater Laddaran, 24, of Welfareville Compound, was arrested after a brief fight with SPO1 Erio Mijares, 48, of the Mandaluyong Police Community Precinct 4 in Edsa Central.

Investigator PO2 Noli Cortez said Mijares was on his way home about 9:45 a.m. yesterday from a market on Nueve de Febrero Street when Laddaran's tricycle almost ran him over.

He said Mijares, who was not in uniform, was walking toward the tricycle when the accident happened.

Police said that instead of apologizing to the policeman, Laddaran confronted him.

Mijares introduced himself as a policeman and yelled at Laddaran, accusing him of reckless driving, police said.

But Laddaran hit Mijares and reportedly told him that he didn't care if he was a police officer.

Other policemen promptly hauled Laddaran to jail. Direct assault charges were filed against him, police said.

2 shot dead in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

STUDENT Sahara Cardano, 18, was at home waiting for her father Saturday night when she heard a gunshot shatter the quiet of her neighborhood in Barangay Central, Quezon City.

When she went out to check, she saw her father dead on the street.

Mattum V. Gani, 42, of 192 Carnation St. Barangay Central, Quezon City, died on the spot a few meters away from his home after an unidentified suspect shot him, said investigator PO3 Leo Tabuena, of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

More than an hour later, police found another man shot dead in Barangay Central.

Tabuena said the unidentified second victim was 25-30 years old, of medium build, and was wearing a blue shirt and brown pants. He had two gunshot wounds in the head and the abdomen.

Police have yet to find any evidence linking the two shootings, he added.

Cardano found her father sprawled on the street in front of No. 442 Cadena de Amor Street, in Barangay Central, around 8 p.m. Saturday, Tabuena added.

He said Gani was shot in the buttocks but the bullet exited near his mouth.

Investigators were still trying to find out if Gani had any enemies in their neighborhood.

The victim's body was already in the morgue when investigators arrived. And because Gani was a Muslim, his family did not allow an autopsy, Tabuena added.

According to Islamic tradition, a Muslim should be buried before sundown or within 24 hours of death.

While Tabuena was investigating Gani's murder, the Kamuning police station again sent out an alert at 9:40 p.m. saying another man had been shot.

Passersby discovered the unidentified victim on Matapang Street in Barangay Central, he said.

Witnesses told police the unidentified man was walking with another man just before the shooting happened.

The two began to quarrel until one man pulled out a handgun of unknown caliber and shot the other in the head and the abdomen.

The gunman fled, Tabuena said.

The victim was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy, Tabuena added.

He said the victim was not carrying any identification papers.

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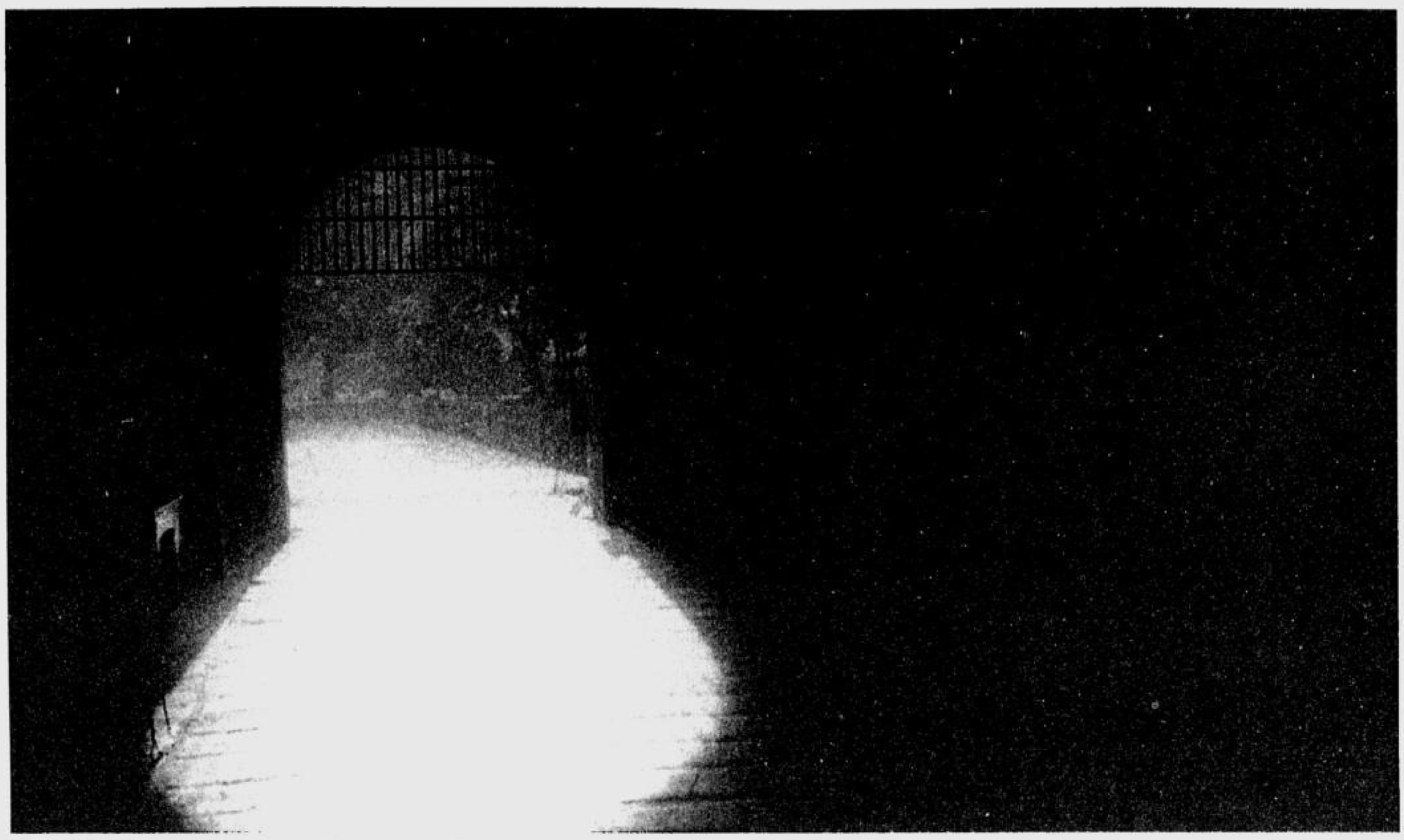
Intramuros in danger

By Mario Cornejo



IS THERE light at the end of the tunnel for Intramuros?

PHOTOS BY CORINNE DE SAN JOSE

INTRAMUROS is changing.

While change is inevitable, one can't help but notice that recent developments in Manila's famous Walled City seem to be happening at a fast rate. Perhaps too fast for it's own good.

Walk the streets of this historic site and the dichotomies are readily apparent. One minute you're standing on a cobblestone street essentially unchanged since the Spanish occupation, and the next minute you're having a hazelnut-flavored cappuccino with non-fat milk at the Starbucks, which amazingly is built into the wall.

The centuries-old landmark is now housing several commercial establishments, apparently with others still to come. Coffee shops, restaurants, and even a now dormant dance club have been built into the structure of the wall itself.

These great stones, once protection against invasions and rebellions, are now starting to resemble a strip mall.

While this is fairly amusing and in some ways pretty cool, one can't help but hear a small voice in the back of one's head. And if you listen closely, you can make out its whisper: This can't be right...

Full accountability

Bambi L. Harper, an active member of local heritage and conservation groups, has filed charges against some of those responsible for these establishments and the case is currently before the Sandiganbayan.

But don't think that Harper and her colleagues are against any changes and development in Intramuros at all.

"We are all for adaptive reuse, but this must be done responsibly and with full accountability," Harper says.

Reportedly, this is not being followed. In the process of building their structures, some of the establishments may have done irreparable harm to the stone edifices. Holes have been drilled, nails hammered, supports installed.

And in one case at least, the damage caused may be invisible to the eye.

The club Mas y Mas was, for a while last year, the place to be. It was a favorite site for raves and all-night dancing. But geologists and engineers consulted have indicated that the prolonged exposure to loud music may cause a weakening of the stones of the wall.

This damage may not become obvious until much later on, and by then it will have become too late to do anything about it.

Harper says, "It's simply disgusting, the lack of accountability."

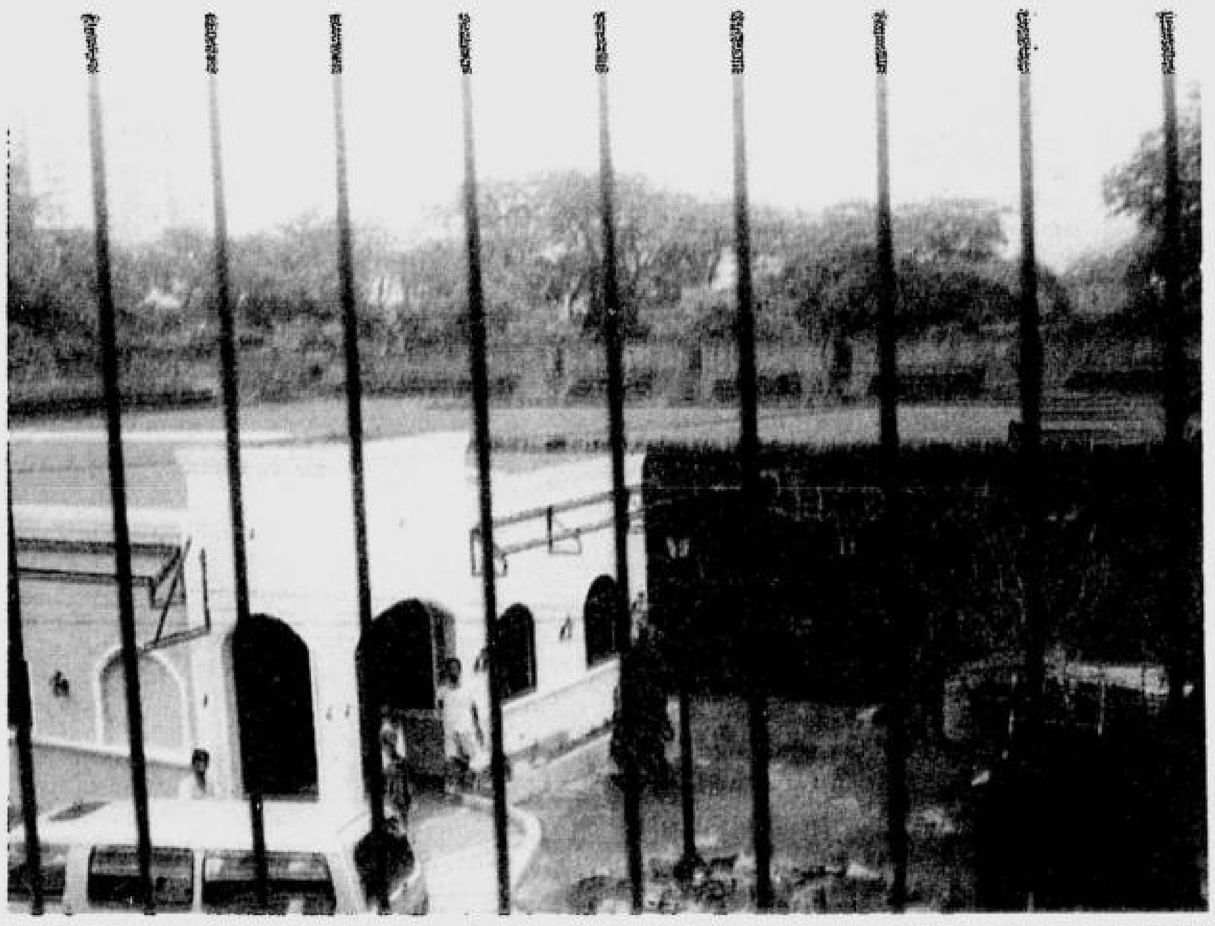
Crony's control

One has to wonder why all these apparent oversights have been committed in the last few years. And the rumors floating around point, unsurprisingly, to politics.

The commercialization of Intramuros is said to be controlled by a certain crony of deposed President Estrada, and all establishments have to pass through him if they want to be allowed to operate within the walls. And, of course, once they have secured his approval by whatever means, they come under his protection and can do what they wish.

This rumor is vehemently denied by Dominador Ferrer Jr., the administrator of the Intramuros Administration and himself an Erap appointee.

Ferrer says there is a set process for applying for any permit to build and operate businesses within Intramuros, and these are followed precisely. He says the rumors of political intervention in these matters have no basis whatsoever.



ROOM WITH a view. Rising just outside the office of the Letran president is what reportedly is going to be another eatery, which is being built too close to the ancient wall (right).

Too close for comfort

Father Edwin Lao, rector and president of the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, disagrees with Ferrer's statement. As the representative of one of Intramuros' oldest institutions, his voice is indeed an influential one. Letran has been a tenant of Intramuros for literally hundreds of years.

Right outside Lao's office window is a structure being built reportedly as an eatery. Though admittedly unfinished, it seems to lack a certain sense of aesthetics that would allow it to blend in. But that judgment is quite relative, and thus inconclusive.

The presence of people reminded me that this is indeed a living city, and that to make this special place a cold museum would also be a disservice. But the fact that Intramuros is still beautiful should not lull us into a false sense of security about the longevity of this landmark.

What is uncontestable is that the structure's position seems much too close to the wall for comfort.

If Rizal decided to walk through the gap with his family, they'd have to go single file to fit. Again, that voice starts to make itself heard: This can't be right...

But don't think that Father Lao is grumbling just because somebody ruined his view. He says there are unfair practices going on in Intramuros, despite the denials of administrator Ferrer. The law seems to apply only to some, while others can do as they wish.

"The rules aren't being applied equally to all," Father Lao says.

Unequal

A case in point are certain building restrictions placed upon Letran for structures that the school wishes to erect. Dormitories and other facilities that would enhance the school are subjected to rigorous tests such as design approvals and height limits, while other establishments are allowed a much freer hand.

And, again, while design elements are a matter of taste, geometry is pretty absolute. One need merely bring a tape measure to see that certain structures go well above the height limits being imposed so strictly on Letran's proposed buildings.

And this sums up the main complaint of Harper and Father Lao. That the law applies to some but not to all, that the people are effectively being ignored in favor of those connected enough to bypass them.

But when we talk about the people of Intramuros, we enter another dilemma altogether. After all, there are few true residential areas within the walls, yet there is a large community of squatters there. And they may yet become the biggest cause of the downfall of Intramuros.

The squatter communities are bigger than ever, and the accompanying waste and vandalism are difficult to ignore.

Ferrer acknowledges the problem and says he is constantly looking for a solution to this in coordination with other government agencies. But he claims to be held back by the laws protecting squatter rights, and this may be a valid claim.

"We have to put aside all the bickering and work together," he says.

Squatters, voters

But according to Harper, Intramuros as a historical site doesn't fall under the same laws as the rest of the metropolis, and the problem can be dealt with more expediently than what is happening now.

Father Lao also acknowledges the urgency of this problem. His students have been put in dangerous situations due to the proximity of these squatters, and precautions have been adopted for their protection.

While squatters are definitely a social issue, it cannot be denied that they are also a political one, and for many reasons. Not least of which is the fact that squatters vote.

There are accusations that it is politically expedient for those in power to curry favor with the squatter communities by allowing them to remain where they are and thus ensure their support in coming elections.

Many had hoped that the current administration would find a way to rectify what they viewed as the mistakes of the Erap administration with regards to the preservation of Intramuros. But so far, the ears of this new government seem as deaf as those of the last.

Appeals to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon have as of yet been unfruitful. His appointment was seen by many as heaven sent. Thus, his subsequent failure to respond quickly to these problems was all the more discouraging.

Pleasant surprise

With all the accusations and rumors flying about, it is difficult to think clearly on the subject. So I decided to walk the streets of Intramuros one morning and see for myself what there was to see, and perhaps gain a fresh perspective on the matter.

I have to say I was pleasantly surprised. While deterioration was evident, the sense of history and beauty was still very much there. There are beautiful pockets of nature that are quite well maintained. Walking along the top of the wall, one feels a connection with the early Filipinos who raised the stones with their bare hands more than three hundred years ago.

And I was not alone. There were several people doing the very same thing as I was, simply walking and quietly admiring the view. Their presence reminded me that this is indeed a living city, and that to make this special place a cold museum would also be a disservice.

But the fact that Intramuros is still beautiful should not lull us into a false sense of security about the longevity of this landmark. Indeed, the beauty still present is a constant reminder of what we stand to lose if we are less than vigilant, and fail to listen to the voices in our heads.

PAST MEETS PRESENT. Restaurants have been built right into the old walls.

2 deaths by suicide

"I THOUGHT I was lucky when you choose me. But it turned out I was wrong."

After writing these words, housewife Mary Jane Vasquez-Llaneta ended her life by hanging before dawn yesterday in Quezon City.

Llaneta was one of the two people who committed suicide in Quezon City over the weekend, police said.

Llaneta, of Feria Street, Barangay Balara, and Daniel T. Sumawong, 22, of San Narciso Street, Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, both killed themselves by hanging.

Llaneta, who fought with her husband early last week, killed herself inside her home, said PO1 Edwin de la Cruz of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

The woman's husband was not home when she tied a nylon cord around her neck and tied the cord's other end to a beam in her house, De la Cruz said.

The woman's two young children were asleep when the suicide was committed, De la Cruz said.

He said the victim's brother-in-law discovered Llaneta hanging from the ceiling around 3 a.m. yesterday.

She left a suicide note where she said she was sorry for killing herself.

"The victim said she could no longer bear the way her husband treated her," De la Cruz said.

Philip C. Tubeza

HOT STUNT

Circus troupe member Reynaldo Barcatan dives through a ring of fire during practice at the Manuel L. Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, where Sunday strollers are treated to a free show.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Arroyo 'walks through past'

CORREGIDOR ISLAND-"The whole island is an island of history, it's like walking through the past."

This was how presidential husband Jose Miguel T. Arroyo described his first tour of Corregidor Island on Thursday.

Twenty children from the depressed areas of Barangay San Antonio in Quezon City and 21 members of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (National Capital Region)-Tondo Post IV led by Ricardo Madayag accompanied Arroyo.

The veterans fought in Bataan during World War II.

Arroyo made the trip here as the country prepares to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of the proclamation of its independence on June 12.

His trip, Arroyo said, was "reliving the past and remembering how our brave fellow Filipinos fought hard for freedom,"

"That's why we, Filipinos, must always treasure our democracy, our freedom. People are willing to fight and die for our freedom," Arroyo said.

The veterans who accompanied Arroyo relived memories of how they fought side-by-side with American soldiers from the start of the war up to the fall of Bataan on April 9, 1944 and the ensuing Death March.

Most of the veterans, aged between 79 and 86, were teary-eyed as they vividly recalled how their compatriots fought hard to defend Corregidor against the conquering Japanese soldiers.

"The fighting was fierce and many Japanese soldiers also died here before they were able to take the island, " recalled 82-year-old Faustino Manalang.

The veterans also took the occasion to seek the help of the presidential husband regarding the non-implementation of the additional P500 per month to their pension for the year 2001, and the P1,700 disability pension for the veteran and P500 his spouse as provided for by Republic Act No. 7696, approved in 1994.

Arroyo told the veterans that he would bring their concerns to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and the Philippine Veterans Administration Office (PVAO).

The veterans said they are optimistic that all their benefits would be given under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. They said that they are getting old fast and are in dire need of such benefits.

They also thanked Arroyo for giving them the opportunity to tour Corregidor, which they could not afford on their own.

The group visited several historical sites in the island, like the Malinta Tunnel, which served as the seat of Commonwealth Government under President Manuel L. Quezon and which offered glimpses of some historical moments during the war in 1941 to 1945.

Some 60,000 tourists, both local and foreign visit the island every year, according to Lt. Col. Artemio Matibag, Corregidor Foundation Inc. deputy executive director.

About 50 percent of the foreign tourists come from the United States and Canada, and 42.8 percent are from Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan.

Matibag said their goal is to increase tourist arrivals to 70,000 a year.

Jeepney crushes tricycle driver

A TRICYCLE driver was killed while another was severely injured after they were hit by a passenger jeepney that was said to be racing with another vehicle in Manila yesterday morning.

David Barnuevo, 27, a resident of Dagat-Dagatan Street, Navotas, died from severe injuries after he was pinned between the killer jeepney and his tricycle at 1:30 a.m. on Honorio Lopez Boulevard, police said.

Another tricycle driver, Noel Martinez, 65, of Dayao Street, Balut, Tondo, was seriously injured. He is undergoing treatment at the Tondo General Hospital.

The jeepney was racing with another passenger jeepney when it rammed into Martinez's tricycle, investigation showed.

The wayward jeepney was plying the Divisoria-Gasak-Malabon route, but its driver was not identified.

After hitting Martinez's tricycle, the jeepney slammed into a steel billboard beside Barbueno's tricycle, investigation showed. Barbueno's head hit the billboard and he was pinned between the jeepney and his tricycle, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

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11	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTS IN THE PANTS
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	PEARL HARBOR
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
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12	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE

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5	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PEARL HARBOR
9	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT- AWAY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	LABRADOR

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

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3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	PEARL HARBOR

SM ILOILO 3206422

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
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6	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
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SM PAMPANGA [illegible]

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4	RESERVE
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8	CARTA ALAS

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5	CARTA ALAS
6	KAMASUTRA

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3	PEARL HARBOR
4	
5	

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5	CUT- AWAY

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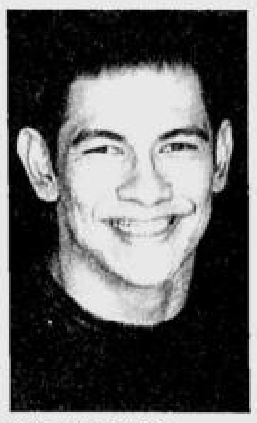
CINEMA-8	CUT AWAY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-12	ANTS IN THE PANTS
CINEMA-14	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-15	ALAS DOSE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-2	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-3	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-4	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-5	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	PEARL HARBOR
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	BAIT
CINEMA-2	KATAWAN
CINEMA-4	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-2	MASARAP HABANG MAINIT
CINEMA-4	WANTED G.R.O



VALENCIANO

Gary V goes on US tour

GARY Valenciano successfully concluded the first two legs of his seven-stop US-tour, his 18th anniversary salvo.

The tour kicked off in Reno, Nevada, on May 19 and went to Sacramento, California, the next day, May 20.

Gary wowed fans and friends alike with his latest repertoire of tunes from best-selling albums "Revive" and "Greatest Hits," as well as the show-stoppers from recent hit concerts "Radical" and "By Request II."

His revitalized medley of Latin hits was a smash with the crowd, young and old alike. From the opening fluid guitar lines of "Smooth," the audience was up on its feet, turning the evening into one big party.

Performing at the Silver Legacy and El Dorado's City Center Pavilion, Gary charmed the hearts of thousands of Filipinos and Americans who flocked to the venue to witness his exceptional brand of entertainment. A favorite of the owners of the entertainment venue (Greg and Gary Carano and Rick Murdoch), Gary worked the crowd to a frenzy and they danced with him till the last song.

Tim and Digna Leonard and Benette Pangilinan of Leonard Productions, promoters of the show, were so proud of the evening's turnout.

Performing with Gary were musical director Mon Faustino, Powerplay band, guest vocalists Mayann Casal-Soriano and Melissa Fontano, the Manoeuvres Joshua Zamora and Bryan Rosal, and surprise additional "guest" dancer, 12-year-old Gabriel Valenciano who wowed the crowd no end, prompting comparisons between him and his proud dad.

The US tour took a break when Gary made a brief tour by doing an evangelistic show, "Gary V- Revive," May 27 and 28 at the Liberty Towers in Sacramento City.

Gary continued his tour on June 9 at the Golden Hall in San Diego, June 12 at the General Assembly Theater in Houston, Texas, June 17 at the Navy Pier of Chicago, Illinois and June 22 at the Florida Theater in Jacksonville, Florida.

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Jon Voight

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Take a bow, Pia, Willie and Jon

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WATCHING TV can be such a drag these days, with people saying and doing so many self-serving things on camera, inadvertently confirming their incompetence or mediocrity.

Once in a while, however, people do good work on the tube, and we are pleased to cite some of them today:

Pia Hontiveros on "Strictly Politics." The lovely and brainy Ms Hontiveros hosts the show with verve and insight, and isn't afraid to keep some of the country's most arrogant political luminaries in line, so that the focus and objectivity of her show can be sustained.

Young women who also want to have a rewarding career in TV news and public affairs would do well to choose Ms Hontiveros as their role model, instead of some of the puffed-up, snitty anchors and program hosts who rule over the ratings these days.

Willie Nepomuceno and **Jon Santos** on "Ispup." These two versatile comedians and impersonators do dead-on spoofs of a veritable rogues' gallery of national figures and celebrities, with blithe comic impunity.

More than just imitating their subjects' appearance, mannerisms and ways of talking and moving, Willie and Jon get to the idiosyncratic hearts of their "victims," whom they spoof so well that some of them consider it a status symbol to be satirized by these "Ispup" stalwarts.

It's no wonder that aspiring impersonators look to Willie and Jon. However, they must be told that these two master mimics are outstanding because they choose to make things tough for themselves, agonizing over details and getting things exactly right, so that their impersonations can have the strongest possible effect on viewers.

Who are the TV people you wish to cite for particularly good work on the tube?

Feedback

FROM **Emmanuel S. Espino** of Cabanatuan City: "I'm glad to hear that the Pinoy Blockbuster Channel has evolved into Cinema One. I hope that new movie channel will show quality films.

"You wrote that you saw **Eddie Romero**'s Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon on Cinema One recently. I've been waiting for a long time to see this film on TV, but our cable operator here has stopped airing my favorite Sky channels.

"Channel News Asia has replaced my favorite ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), and Pinoy Blockbuster has been replaced by Viva Cinema, which usually shows commercial films. But in fairness to Viva, I also enjoy watching its classic movies every Saturday morning.

"I want to get Sky back! And I hope the cable industry will realize that having more choices would be better for us consumers. Because we're the ones who pay for comfortable viewing, and we don't want to be ignorant in this modern age!"

Asian films on AXN

AWARD-WINNING Asian movies will be given the showcase they deserve on the AXN channel this year and in 2002. These films include "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Time and Tide," "The Road Home" and "Not One Less."

Ang Lee's "Crouching Tiger . . ." is now the highest-grossing foreign film ever. "Time & Tide" is an explosive film directed by **Tsui Hark** and starring **Nicholas Tse** and **Wu Bai.**

Zhang Yimou's The Road Home" won the World Cinema award at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival, as well as the Silver Bear Award at the 50th Berlin International Film Festival. And "Not One Less" was honored with the Golden Lion award for best picture in the 1999 Venice International Film Festival.

AXN's **Betty Tsui**, VP for Programming and Acquisition, observes that the TV screening of these films is in response to the increasing sophistication of the channel's audience, and the heightened excellence of Asian movies, which have been acclaimed by the international film community.

Tribe of Levi at Phenomena

TRIBE of Levi, one of Manila's most popular R&B bands today, is tonight at Phenomena, the music hall and rave station on Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

The Tribe, who has gained a staunch and solid following in the bar circuit, will perform dance, rap and R&B music starting at 9 p.m.

Their repertoire includes popular hits like Sisqo's "Thong Song" and "Incomplete," ROB revivals like "Careless Whisper," "Killing Me Softly" and "Betcha By Golly Wow."

The band is well-known for its outstanding renditions of Shaggy's chart-busters like "It Wasn't Me" and "Angel," Jeremy Jordan's "Right Kind of Love," Busta Rhyme's "What's It Gonna Be," US3's "Cantaloop" and Usher's "Nice and Slow."

Their energies are pushed to the max when they dish out frenetic dance tunes like "100 Percent Pure Love," "Getting Jiggy," "All Night, All Right," "Don't Call Me Baby," "Makin' Happy" and more.

Some of their showstoppers are El DeBarge's "Time Will Reveal" and Stevie Wonder's classic, "Lately."

The Tribe also includes cuts from their forthcoming album under Neo Records of Viva Entertainment, to be launched in the third quarter of the year.

An all-male band, Tribe of Levi's seven-member team is composed of lead vocalist Zaq Salazar, master rapper Robbie Rapsmith, guitarist Emerzon Texon who is also the band's musical director, bassist Ramil Servales, drummer Mark Anthony Ayangco, keyboard player Edward Mitra and wind specialist Lauren C.

To complement their regular gigs the past year, Tribe has also featured first-rate female singers. Issa Alfonso joined the boys for a long stretch in their bar stints at Watering Hole, Suburbia, Fat Willy's and Audiotorium.

Aliya Parcs was a striking favorite of the Tribe in their six-month contract at Strumm's Makati, while the inimitable Gail Blanco sang with the band in StreetLife, Ratsky's and Studio One for over half a year.

Aside from Phenomena and their recording sessions, Tribe of Levi is busy performing this month of June at StreetLife on Wednesdays and Spin Crazy in Libis, Quezon City on Fridays.

For more information on the Tribe, call up First Name Entertainment at 725-3347/ 725-3379 or log on to <livebands.com.ph> and search for tribe.

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PEARL HARBOR - P 13 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30	MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10	PEARL HARBOR - P 13 1:00, 4.30, 8:00

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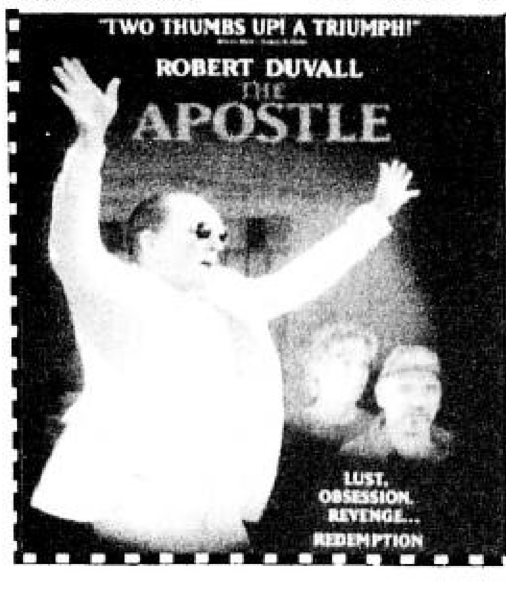

"TWO THUMBS UP! A TRIUMPH!"
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ROBERT DUVALL
THE APOSTLE
After being squeezed out of his church by his ex-wife, a Texas fundamentalist preacher's alcohol-fueled rage sends him off the deep end. After beating her new beau into a coma, he flees to Louisiana and seizes the chance to reinvent himself as a devout "Apostle," founding a new church and captivating the citizenry while keeping his sins buried. Duvall, who also wrote and produced, is riveting in the title role.
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION
Best Actor - Robert Duvall

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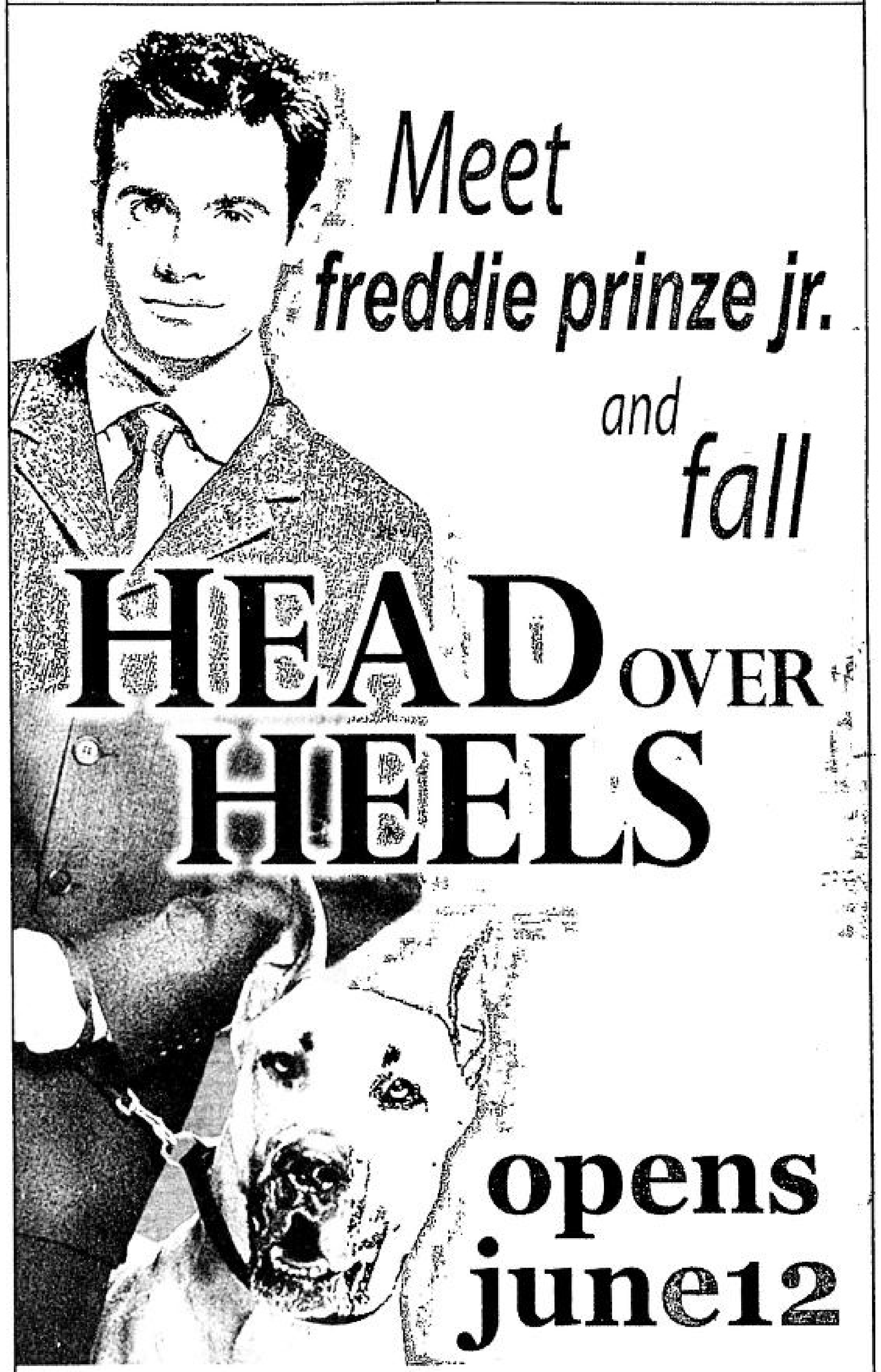

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Julia Roberts, my friend Pops, and 2 kind Aetas

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'M headed for New York City on the last week of June to interview **Julia Roberts, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Billy Crystal, John Cusack**, and director Joe Roth for the international press junket of their film "America's Sweethearts." This opportunity was made possible courtesy of Columbia Pictures' **Doris Torres**.

Wow, the exclusive chance to sit down and tape for broadcast (to be aired on "The Buzz" and "Kris and Tell") a one-on-one chat with the world's No. 1 female movie star! What an opportunity!

This certainly makes up for ABS-CBN management's decision to turn down Buena Vista's invitation for me or **Boy Abunda** to cover the "Pearl Harbor" Hawaii gala premiere and international junket. It went to **Paolo Bediones** and "S-Files."

The truth is Boy and I were feeling a bit down about losing out on that exclusive, especially after seeing the footage of the festivities that went on, not to mention the fact that **Ben Affleck** is such a cutie.

Matters weren't helped when so many of my friends pointed out that GMA got the better of us with their "Pearl Harbor" coverage, and it was a definite coup for them. Even if I repeatedly pointed out that Boy and I were the first choice of Buena Vista, that argument fell on deaf ears since we, after all, didn't have the finished product.

But heck, Julia is Julia. Plus, all my male friends are agog about my chance to sit down with Catherine. In this interview series, there's someone and something interesting for everybody to look forward to.

It's a whirlwind four-day trip for me, and that's inclusive of the 36-hour round-trip travel time. Exhausting, but well worth the effort.

I hurt my good friend **Pops Fernandez**'s feelings during her guesting on The Buzz last Sunday, June 3. I was insensitive to her process of healing regarding **Martin Nieverra**'s current girlfriend **Katrina Ojeda**.

I've apologized in numerous ways, and lucky for me, after I heard Mass on Thursday, Pops sent me a text message saying she just needed time to cool off, but all was now forgiven.

I now have certain friendships that I'd be a fool not to hold on to. My life would be incomplete if Pops were to exit it. Pride does get in the way of ironing out what could be settled, but differences should be given enough time—time measured carefully, not too much time that you get used to being apart, but not too little time that the wound is still too fresh.

I'm lucky enough to have built a strong enough foundation with Pops for her to be able to see the bigger picture and isolate my slip-up. It's a lesson learned for me about balancing fun interviews with compassion for a dear friend.

They say maintaining real friendships and relationships in show business is next to impossible. It is, if you forget to hold on to what matters in any friendship, and that's basically trust and acceptance. These are earned and nurtured, never taken for granted.

Growing up means having the courage to own up to your shortcomings and to say you're sorry. Maturity is appreciating the forgiveness you've received and resolving to never commit the same mistakes again.

Now that I have a tan, fresh from **Josh**'s Boracay birthday celebration, I've been taking full advantage of wearing white shirts, which really highlight my current pinkish-brown skin tone. Normally I steer clear of white since I'm normally pale and would just blend into it. But a white, round neck cotton shirt is so versatile, comfortable, and youthful.

If you've been looking for the perfect white cotton t-shirt, I've found it. It's from the HerBench underwear line. The shirt hugs because of the lycra cotton blend, but it doesn't cling mercilessly to the problem spots of most women, namely the *bilbil* and the little fat deposits in the back, above and below the bra-line.

I thought Calvin Klein made the best cotton tank and short-sleeved tops. **Ben Chan**'s HerBench equals the quality of the very pricey CK line, at a fraction of the cost. And it washes well. It's been laundered twice and has held its shape very well. Excellent news for us Filipino consumers.

Let me also give Bench Bytes' Lychee Mint Candy a plug. Josh and I love it. It's a perfect blend of light mint, not too *maanghang* nor sugary, but with the sweet, satisfying flavor of lychee.

As I write this column, I'm staring at the photo of US Navy Lt. **Scott Alan Washburn** with president GMA. He is just the cutest. I'm sure all the women out wished they were his rescuer.

Trust me, if I had found him, I'd think twice about giving him back.

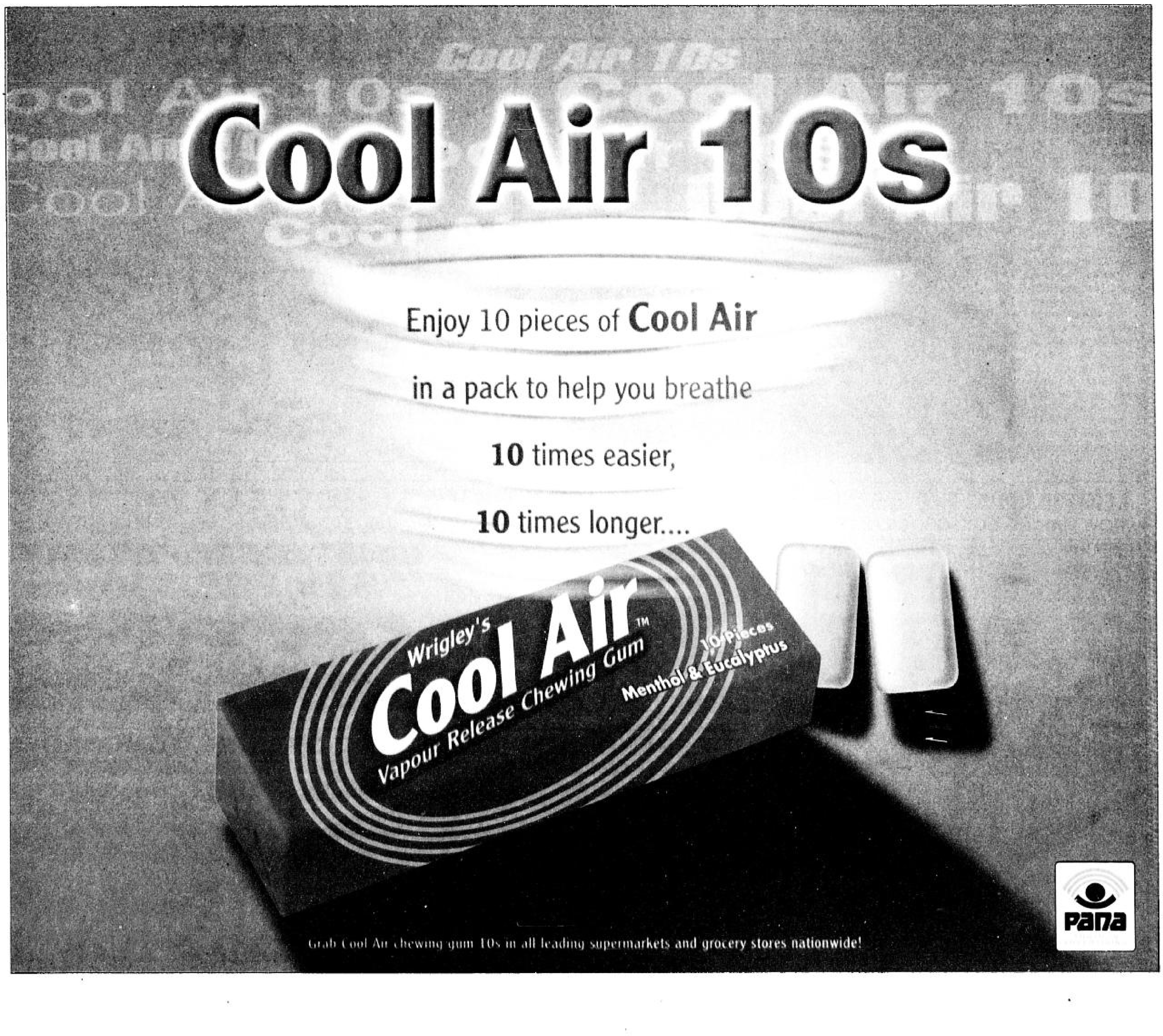
Seriously, I felt so proud of the kindness of the Aetas in not only rescuing him but also seeing him safely to Clark Air Base, and their generosity in pooling what was left of their money to buy him a bottle of Coke.

Patricio Gutierrez and **Rafael Pan** represent the true essence of all that's good within us Pinoys. If they who have so little can share wholeheartedly of themselves, their time and their charity, shouldn't we who have more take our cue from them?

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Reluctant star

SHE has the eyes of her dad, former screen heartthrob Gabby Concepcion, and the lips of her mom, Megastar Sharon Cuneta. She has pure show biz in her blood. Now 17, Kristina Cassandra Cuneta Concepcion, better known as KC, reportedly has not been interested in joining the movies. But she recently was signed up to be the image model of a new garment line, for a cool P5 million. Does that mean the child of Shawie and Gabby has changed her mind and is ready to enter the world of intrigues and gossip that made such big stars of her parents? The star-in-waiting made a rare public appearance when she attended last week's oath-taking of her stepdad, senator-elect Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan. Will these eyes and these lips soon be those of another big, rich star?



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Banks' bad loans worsen to ₱264.7B as of April

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NON-PERFORMING loan ratio of the banking industry deteriorated in April to 16.65 percent of its total loan portfolio from the previous month's 16.6 percent.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the level of bad loans had increased by 2.7 percent to P264.74 billion in April from P257.74 billion the previous month.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the rise in bad loans in April still outpaced a 2.4-percent improvement in total loan portfolio to P1.589 trillion from P1.553 trillion in March.

Reyes said banks continued to feel the lag impact of higher interest rates and severe economic strain last year, explaining why their NPL ratio continued to swell as of April.

The Bangko Sentral official said the March NPL ratio was revised after two banks submitted delayed reports raising the industry's loan portfolio, thus reducing the ratio.

"Borrowers are still hard up and they are having a hard time paying their loans. And the economy has not fully recovered so loan growth has not picked up," Reyes said.

Non-performing loans refer to those accounts whose principal or interest has been unpaid for 90 days or more after due date or even after this has become past due.

The central bank admitted that if inter-bank loans were taken out from the total loan portfolio, the ratio of bad loans would have stood higher at 18.3 percent, though a bit lower than the March level of 18.29 percent.

The level of banks' foreclosed assets or real and other properties owned or acquired was slightly lower at P131.05 billion in April from P131.38 billion a month ago, pushing the Ropoa ratio to net assets down to 4.3 percent from 4.4 percent.

Overall asset quality, according to the Bangko Sentral, slightly deteriorated as well to a non-performing asset ratio of 13.2 percent from 13.3 percent in March. Bad assets stood at P400.47 billion in April from P393.36 billion the previous month.

Reyes said loan growth must accelerate once the political situation has fully normalized. The Macapagal administration, he said, was buckling down to work as it aggressively puts reforms in place.

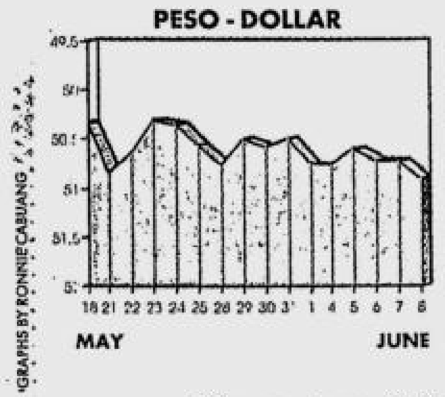
The central bank has brought down its key policy rates to year-ago levels to convince banks to pull down their lending rates and, in turn, prod businesses to start borrowing aggressively.

Reyes said the BSP's decision to bring back its overnight rates to 9 percent for overnight borrowing and 11.25 percent for overnight lending should bring down bank loan rates to make it easier for clients to cope with interest payments and eventually push the NPL level lower in the coming months.

A visiting mission from the International Monetary Fund last April cited the likelihood of a further increase in banks' bad loans as the impact of last year's political and economic slowdown plus sluggish recovery would remain a burden to the borrowers and their creditors.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.91 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 8, 2001

¥120.30 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 120.30 as of 5 p.m., June 8, 2001

GOLD:$266.50/270.00
per ounce Hong Kong, June 8, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Cautious trade seen

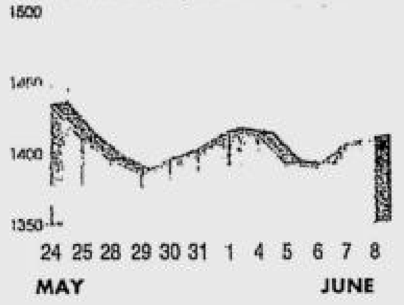
LOCAL stock investors are seen trading with caution this week as they continue to grope for the market's bottom.

Some bargain-hunting spree recovered some of last week's early losses, renewing hopes that the market would resolve its looming dilemma in favor of an uptrend soon.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 5.59 points or 0.39 percent.

(See story on Page B6)

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

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Vehicle sales slumped 15% in first 5 months

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SALES of passenger cars and commercial vehicles continued to head south last month as rising sticker prices and ebbing consumer confidence force buyers to keep their checkbooks shut.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales tumbled 14.9 percent to 28,952 units from January to May this year from 34,025 units during the same period last year.

Although last month's turnover of 5,818 units was 13.6 percent better than the 5,120 units sold the previous month, it was 15.9 percent below the 6,916 units sold in May last year.

At this pace, it would be an uphill climb for the industry to at least match last year's sales performance. Turnover jumped 12.8 percent to 83,949 units last year from 74,414 units in 1999.

Assemblers had earlier predicted that the euphoria from the sudden change in Malacañang's occupants would translate to bigger sales but that has not happened so far this year.

Sales slumped substantially in April as a labor strike stalled operations of the country's biggest assembler, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. With the Bicutan and Sta. Rosa plants resuming normal operations, sales of the Tamaraw Revo jumped to 851 units in May from 477 in April.

The Tamaraw remained as the single biggest-selling model in the industry with 4,167 units sold in the first five months this year. This enabled Toyota to keep its hold on the No. 1 spot with a 24.4-percent market share.

Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp. cornered 22.2 percent of the market largely because of its Asian utility vehicle model, the Adventure, which had sales of 2,537 units in the first five months.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was third with 13.8-percent share of the market. Its Civic and City models remained as the industry's No. 1 passenger car models with a 37-percent share in this segment.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. was fourth with a 10.6-percent market share. Just like Toyota and Mitsubishi, Isuzu's sales have been towed by strong demand for its AUV model, the Hi-Lander, which sold 1,459 units in the first five months.

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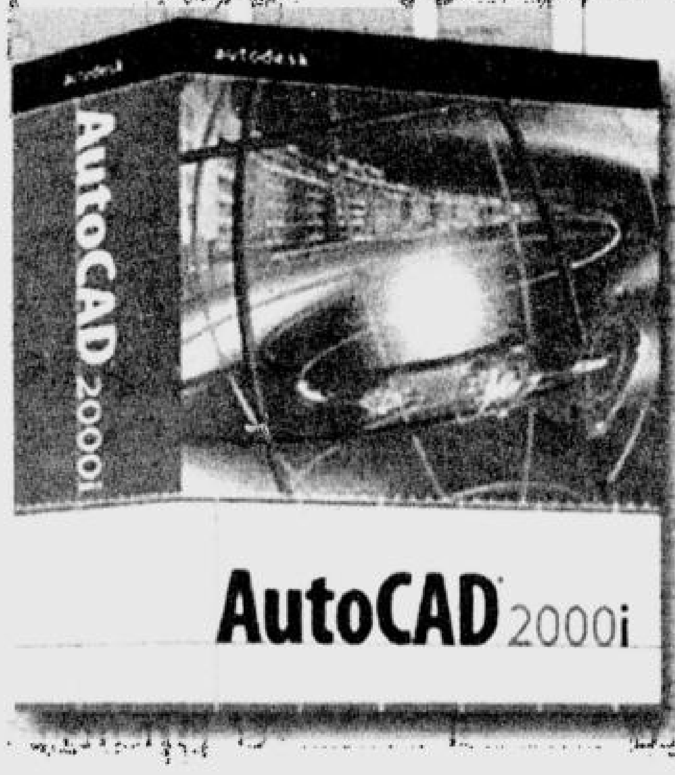

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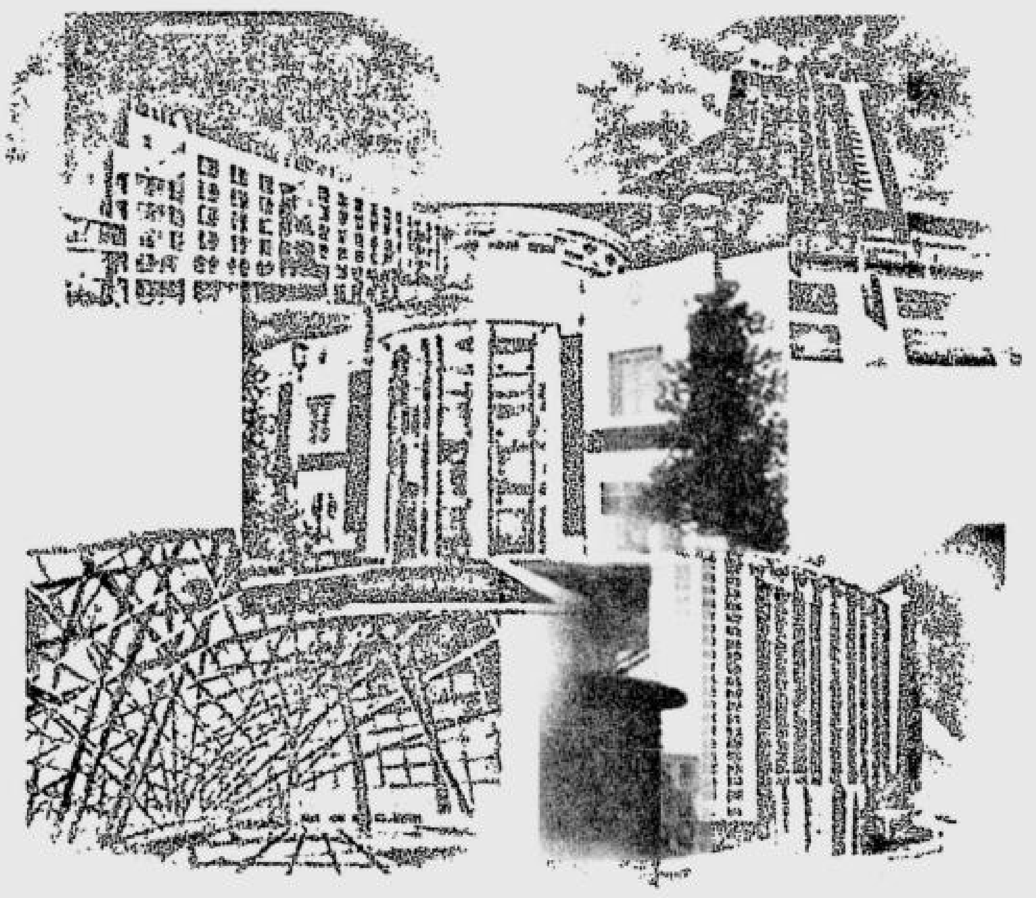

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Power failure

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

THE GARNISHMENT of the personal assets and deposits of former Prime Minister Cesar Virata and Diana Pardo-Aguilar, daughter of former Trade Secretary Jose Pardo, have been lifted following the posting of the required bonds with the court.

The writ of attachment was ordered and subsequently lifted by Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Roberto Diokno following a collection suit filed by a group of investors against Power Merge Corp.

"This case arises from alleged non-payment of a Hottick Holdings Corp. loan with Wincorp that was made by a client of mine, Renong chairman Halim Saad, who subsequently disavowed this loan and left the Philippines," Power Merge CEO and investment banker Luis Juan Virata said.

Power Merge, he said, merely acted as conduit for the loan.

Virata, his uncle, and Aguilar are not in anyway connected to the Wincorp loan, the investment banker said. "They work with me in their capacities as directors with one qualifying share in a road project, which has no connection whatsoever to the Wincorp loan."

Discussions for a comprehensive out-of-court settlement with Wincorp creditors are now ongoing, Luis Juan Virata added.

Merc for Miriam

MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago may have lost the elections but at least she will have the consolation of moving into a brand-new home in La Vista and be neighbors with the Arroyos.

In addition to her multimillion-peso home, the outgoing senator, who rose to power on the strength of her anti-graft and corruption harangue, will be chauffeured in a brand-new black Mercedes C-class, forsaking the much-roomier, certainly more elegant, but older S-type which the senator had used for years.

According to the grapevine, the replacement Benz was acquired only last week from Cats Edsa, whose nominal chair, as some of you may know, is Erap son, now San Juan Mayor, J.V. Ejercito.

Nani needs nannying

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez had to fly to Hong Kong on Saturday to be hospitalized for broncho-pneumonia, which had been ailing him for nearly a week.

His Manila doctors had advised him the overseas confinement to ensure that he gets no distracting phone calls, overzealous visitors, or work-related paper work.

What compounded his ailment was that the former Batangueño solon, despite his 6 a.m. Cathay Pacific flight, had to meet late Friday night the Iglesia potentate, who, along with unlikely partner Brother Mike Velarde, has become the chief lobbyist for the jailed Joseph Estrada.

Taipanic dogfight

AFTER being left on a holding pattern during the Estrada years, Cebu Pacific Air has finally been given clearance by the new tenants of Malacañang to fly regional routes.

The airline of taipan John Gokongwei was actually given approval to fly to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Guam way back in 1997 by the Ramos administration "but (the Malacañang approval) will be transmitted to the government of these countries only now," said a rather revealing press statement from Cebu Pacific.

"Its designation as Philippine official carrier for the US, which was approved by the CAB (Civil Aeronautics Board) in 1998, will now be endorsed to President Arroyo, and subsequently transmitted to Washington, D.C.," the statement confidently predicted.

A week earlier, the CAB also approved Cebu Pacific's designation to Japan, Australia, China, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, incidentally the same routes, in addition to those earlier mentioned, that Lucio Tan and the government's Philippine Airlines has had historical and exclusive prerogative.

Given Cebu Pacific's aggressive pricing policies and code-sharing alliance with fellow fare-busting Northwest Airlines, a fare war between the two taipanic airlines is likely in the offing.

Heard through the grapevine

THE INVESTMENT Capital Corporation of the Philippines is guaranteeing that it can recover P500 million worth of bad assets of the hobbled pro-Erap All Asia Capital; out of that amount, ICCP is asking P40 million as success fee for overseeing the rehabilitation plan.

In addition, ICCP will receive an additional percentage if the recovered assets top P500 million.

The question that remains to be answered to the public by the press-paranoid All Asia management is: "how extensive a haircut will the poor investors get?"

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Globe OKs $22-M supply deal

DIGITAL cellular phone leader Globe Telecom Inc. and Nera Telecommunications Ltd. have recently signed a $21.68-million transmission supply contract for capacity expansion.

Nera's transmission network serves as a pipeline that allows calls to be transported from the various Globe cell sites to its base station controllers and network of mobile switches across the country.

The project is part of Globe's $330-million Phase 8A expansion program for this year. It also brings Globe's total investment in Nera equipment to about $27 million. Globe entered into a $2.9-million deal with Nera in July 2000 for its North Luzon expansion project, followed by another $3.2-million contract in October for Base Station Control Protection in Northern Metro Manila and South Luzon.

The deal was signed by Globe president and CEO Gerardo C Ablaza Jr. and Nera president and CEO Samuel Ang.

APEXMINES
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Company will be held on June 27, 2001 at 9 00 in the morning at Valle Verde Country Club, Capt. Javier St , Bo. Ugong, Pasig City to consider and take action upon the following matters

1. Call to order,
2. Proof of Notice and Quorum;
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Stockholders Meeting held on June 28, 2000 ;
4. Report of the President;
5. Presentation and Approval of the Financial Statements as of December 31, 2000 embodied in the 2000 Annual Report,
6 Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to Transfer the Principal Place of Business from Pasig City to Metro Manila,
7 Amendment of By-Laws to Change the Date of Annual Stockholders' Meeting from last Wednesday of April to last Wednesday of June of each year,
8. Ratification of the Acts of Directors, Committees and Officers of the Corporation,
9. Appointment of External Auditors;
10. Election of Directors;
11. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting;
12. Adjournment.

Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on May 31, 2001 will be entitled to attend and vote. Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting in person are requested to accomplish the attached proxy form and promptly return the same to the undersigned at least three (3) days before the scheduled time of the meeting

A copy of the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2000 containing the Financial Statements for the year 2000 shall be made available on or before the scheduled meeting

Makati City, May 17, 2001.

By Order of the Board of Directors

LEONARDO S. GAYA
Corporate Secretary

P475-M FACTORY SITE

Japan firm picks RP over Canada

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BABCOCK-HITACHI K.K. Japan has picked the Philippines over Canada for its plan to relocate its Japan factory, which produces heat recovery steam generator (HRSG).

The Japanese firm's 80-percent owned local subsidiary, Babcock-Hitachi (Philippines) Inc., is investing P475 million to establish a manufacturing plant for HRSG in San Roque, Bauan, Batangas. The AG&P group holds the remaining 20 percent and it also owns the plant site.

The factory will have a capacity of 13,500 tons of HRSG a year and it will create 81 new jobs. The plant will start commercial operations by December this year.

All materials except for the shipping flame will be imported from abroad. The company is currently building the factory using boiler components and heat exchanger and gas ducts for boilers in an adjacent plant.

Babcock-Hitachi is planning to meet the growing demand for HRSG in the world market with the deregulation of the use of gas turbines. The company is planning to ship its output to the United States, India, Brazil, China, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The PG&E National Energy group of the United States has placed an order for 29 HRSGs between 2002 and 2005. Babcock-Hitachi expects sales to hit $202 million a year after the third year.

The projects were granted pioneer status by the Board of Investments for being the first to manufacture this product locally since operators of power generators such as the state-owned National Power Corp. and the diversified Lopez group have to source their HRSG from South Korea.

HSRG is a steam generator fueled by the heat energy from gas turbine. This allows combined cycle plant (steam and gas turbines) operators to maximize thermal plant efficiency. Through the use of dual thermal output, energy is maximized by 48 percent while costs are slashed by 20 percent. It also has a built-in system which removes nitrate oxide to make steam safer to the environment.

PNOC willing to join onshore gas pipeline

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-OWNED Philippine National Oil Co. is prepared to participate in an onshore pipeline project that would deliver Malampaya's natural gas to Metro Manila.

PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan said Thursday the state firm was willing to join such a project, which may be undertaken by a separate consortium.

Cunanan was reacting to comments that the PNOC was financially sound enough to increase its stake in the Malampaya deep-water gas to power project

"We can't increase our stake because we are tied with the consortium's equity sharing agreement in which PNOC Exploration Corp. has 10 percent," he said.

Before that, he said PNOC was ready to put out more funds in case Malampaya project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV called for an additional capital infusion.

"We will always answer a cash call because we believe (Malampaya) is a good, financially viable project," Cunanan added.

He said PNOC might be able to profit more from the Malampaya gas field by joining a project to put up a land-based pipeline from Batangas to Metro Manila.

Natural gas from the Malampaya wells north of Palawan will be landed via a 504-kilometer offshore pipeline to Batangas, where three power plants are waiting to use the gas.

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Napocor plans to float bonds worth $500M

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. is expected to seek the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas soon for a $300-million to $500-million international bond issue in the third quarter.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the planned Napocor bond issue might be held ahead of the government roadshow scheduled for either July or September.

Market sources said that aside from Napocor, PLDT was also planning to issue $500 million worth of bonds within the year.

Buenaventura said both Napocor and PLDT have yet to formally seek the Monetary Board's approval for their borrowings.

The BSP, said Buenaventura, would prefer that Napocor and PLDT issue bonds with maturity of at least five years.

BUENAVENTURA

Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho confirmed that Napocor has been working out a bond issue to re-finance maturing debts. He said the state-owned power firm was discussing with potential arrangers of the issue.

"The money will be used to pay maturing obligations. We will do that within the year," said Camacho.

Foreign borrowings by government or private entities should be approved by the Monetary Board. This is to ensure that the exercise will not run counter to any existing policy of the government.

In this case, Buenaventura said monetary authorities need to ensure that the maturity of the country's borrowings would not bunch up in the short-term. "The longer the maturity is, the better."

Aside from the maturity, the BSP also monitors the level of foreign borrowings to make sure it does not exceed the limits set under the International Monetary Fund's post-program monitoring of the country's performance.

Buenaventura said the country still has enough room for foreign borrowings.

Also, the BSP chief said there was a window of opportunity for emerging markets like the Philippines to tap the foreign financial market for funds given an improving investors' appetite.

NOT NEW SRC PROVISIONS

Political, economic problems blamed for poor trade volume

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOREIGN brokerage houses pulling out of the country said it was the poor market condition stemming from political and economic uncertainties and not the new Securities Regulations Code that made them decide to leave.

The Philippine Stock Exchange has been pushing for certain amendments to the SRC, thinking that some of the law's provisions have been causing the decline in the trading volume in the market. PSE officials have called for the easing specifically of the broker-dealer rule which prohibits brokers from acting as dealers.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista, for her part, said the local stock market has been suffering from a lack of good securities to invest in.

Officials of Nomura Securities Phils. and Securities 2000 Inc., two of the foreign brokerage houses that are shutting down their Philippine operations, told the SEC that they were leaving because of the failure of the stock market to generate a critical trading volume necessary for them to break even.

SEC2000 officials, in an exit interview with the SEC, said that on a monthly basis, except for January, their company has been incurring losses. They primarily attributed their poor business performance to political and economic uncertainties in the country.

SEC2000 is closing both its trading-related and research operations. It is, however, maintaining a skeletal force to service the transfer of stocks of its clients to other brokers.

Nomura Securities, for its part, will stop its trading operations but will maintain its research team.

Nomura Securities deputy president Atsushi Shibata expressed apprehension over the proposal of the PSE to relate the paid-up capital requirement with the volume transaction of a broker. This, he said, might unnecessarily put a cap on the volume of business a broker can handle and tie up funds that could have been used for proprietary trading.

The SEC said that for this year, six brokerage houses have applied for voluntary suspension of operations while others have closed as a result of mergers with other brokerage houses. The six are: Topwin Securities, Orion Squire Capital, UPCC Securities Corp., Nomura, UOB Philippines, and SEC2000.

Last year, nine foreign brokerage houses stopped operations.

What's wrong with privatizing SSS?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

NOW, the employees of the Social Security System—all 4,000 members of Alert and Concerned Employees for Better SSS (Access), the employees union—are up in arms. To the barricades, everyone!

Access plans to march to Malacañang today to ask for the head of SSS chair and president Vitaliano Nañagas not later than June 14. Kilusang Mayo Uno and the Confederation for Unity, Reform and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), which will grab every chance to get into the headlines, are set to join the protest march.

Will President Macapagal-Arroyo have to put on her bulletproof vest again?

What triggered this outburst? Recently, Nañagas announced plans to privatize fund management, asset management and information technology management by 2004. Access says these privatization plans will mean the dissipation of SSS funds.

As a pensioner, I am glad Access is concerned over the fate of SSS funds. But where was Access during the Estrada presidency when SSS funds were invested in such dubious deals as the Equitable PCI bank merger resulting in billions of pesos in losses? And where were KMU and Courage?

The only ones screaming to high heavens at the time was the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP). It was a cry in the wilderness.

Just what is wrong with privatizing fund management? What is wrong with farming out the investment of SSS funds to insurance companies and investment houses? These firms probably can do a much better job than the in-house investment department at SSS. Also, and this is more important, the funds will be beyond the clutches of greedy politicians and their cronies.

Privatizing SSS fund management is a growing worldwide trend. It started in Brazil where the funds are handed over to insurance companies and investment houses to invest under strict rules. Then members choose the investment outlet. This encourages each outlet to do the best it can in order to attract more members. Such competition raises members' benefits.

I do not have any details on the privatization of asset management. My guess is that the management of the real estate assets, like office buildings, may be placed in private hands. An Ayala company specializes in this kind of service. If this will result in cutting down expenses and raising income, why should Access be against it?

Neither do I have any details on the privatization of information technology management. But sometimes it is better to buy software services from an outside source rather than have your own mainframe computers. This is called outsourcing. Again, if this will cut down expenses and raise income, why should Access be against it?

Understandably, employees always feel threatened by every new-fangled thing that the employer may introduce. Every labor saving device and every time-and-motion study is looked at with great suspicion.

But it is the employer's job to make operations more efficient and profitable. At SSS, where retirees grovel at pensions as low as P2,000 a month, cutting expenses and raising investment income become almost a religious mission.

If privatization will result in the loss of jobs, this means that those jobs are more costly for members to maintain. Why should members carry this burden?

By the way, the employees of SSS are not members of SSS. They are classified as government employees and are members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). Their benefits are higher than those of SSS members. But the SSS members pay for half of the premium that goes to GSIS.

Finally, the salary scales at SSS should be looked into. For instance, in 1998, SSS employees were given an across-the-board increase that amounted to almost P1 billion of members' money. No wonder Access wants to march to Malacañang. They are not worried over the dissipation of investment funds. They are worried over the loss of their high-paying jobs.

Access should realize that the members, not the employees, are the reasons for the existence of SSS. Whose money is being spent on Access members anyway?

SEC urges PSE to junk demutualization proposal

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has urged the Philippine Stock Exchange to junk the demutualization plan proposed by financial consultancy firm SGV & Co. saying that it may be illegal.

Under the SGV's proposal, the PSE would be immediately dissolved with at least 80 percent of the total assets, including property, to be transferred to a new corporation.

PSE member broker-dealers would then surrender membership rights to PSE and receive shares of the new corporation as payment.

The SEC, however, explained in a recent meeting with PSE officials that the shares of the new company cannot be distributed to the PSE members or sold to other investors until the PSE itself is converted into a stock corporation.

The SEC also required the PSE to get prior approval from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and donors of the property before the plan can be executed.

The only way the PSE can proceed with the SGV proposal, the SEC said, was if it would be able to get an opinion from the justice department saying that the immediate dissolution is legal.

Since it is unlikely that the PSE would meet this requirement by the Aug. 8 deadline for the PSE to be demutualized or converted into a stock corporation, the SEC suggested that the PSE take a two-step approach.

The first step, SEC officials explained, was to appraise the value of the property donated by Ayala Land Inc. and Philippine Realty to the PSE, which are used for the exchange's trading floors, set up a development fund and determine the subscribed and paid-up capital and membership contributions.

Once these are done, the PSE can then proceed to the conversion of the exchange from a non-stock, non-profit organization to a stock corporation.

The PSE and its incorporators could then transfer donated assets to a new corporation with shares as payment. The exchange would distribute shares to all original PSE members at the same time. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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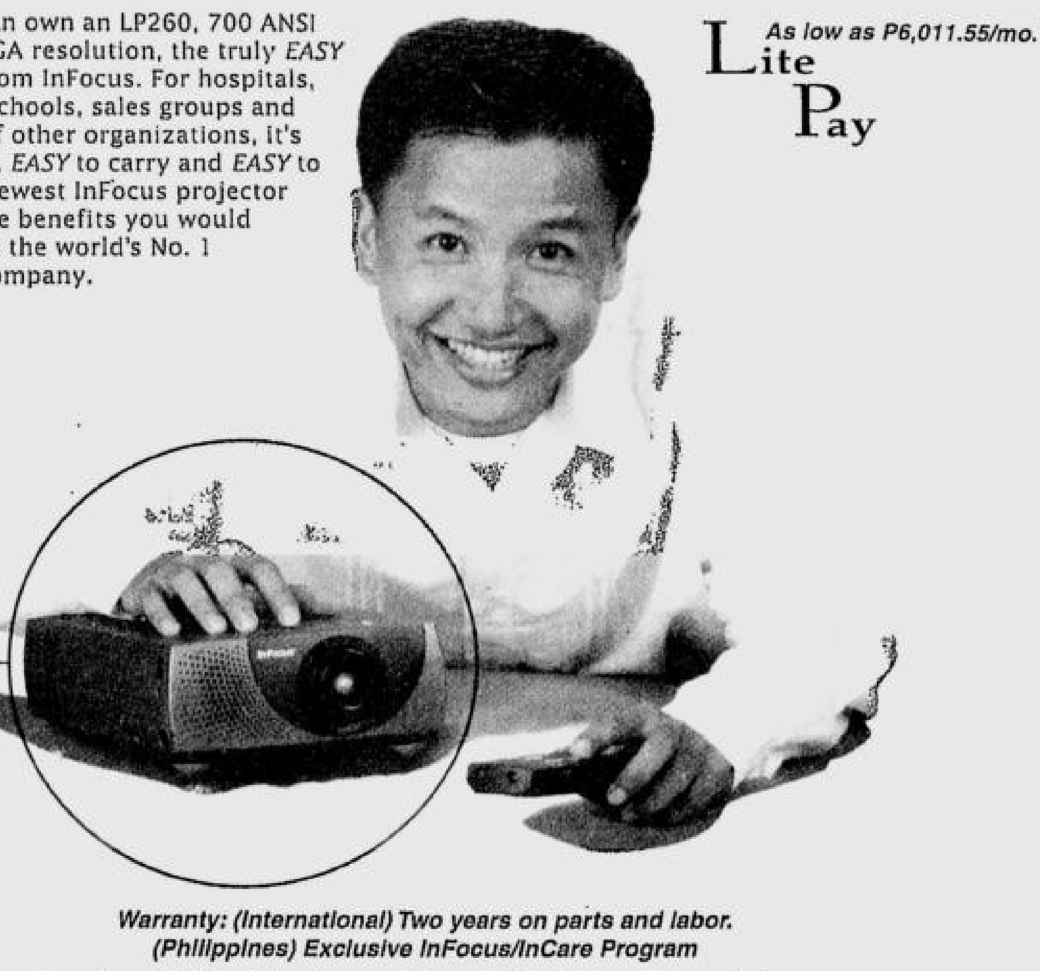

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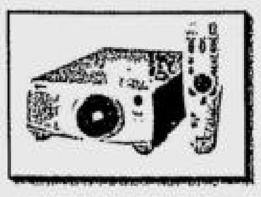

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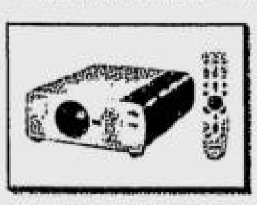

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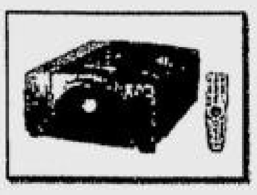

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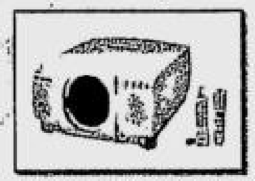

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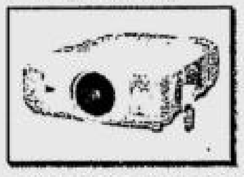

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Foreign investment foolishness

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

LIKE the Philippines, this nation was having problems. The economy was stagnating. Technologically, they were way behind the richer countries. Their immediate neighbors were advancing ahead of them in all areas.

Then, like a gift from heaven, the foreigners arrived, wanting to make a large direct investment. Not only would unproductive resources be developed, but also there would be a transfer of technology and jobs as the foreigners moved in. It seemed too good to be true and unfortunately, it was. They received large amounts of money. Technology was transferred and the people did get jobs. Things did not work out quite the way they expected. In the end, the investment proved to be the downfall of this nation.

This example of foreign investment actually occurred . . . in 1625. The Manhattan Indians were able to sell to the Dutch the rocky swamp land that later became New York City. They got the cash, goods, and technology they asked for. For awhile they were the envy of their neighbors, particularly the Iroquois Confederacy. However, the long-term results of the foreign investment were not worth the short-term gains.

Things have not changed much in the last 350 years. Maybe Lapu-Lapu understood something we do not when he first rejected Magellan's foreign "investment."

The type and style of direct foreign investment that the government pursues is really the problem. The idea of wooing multinational companies to build factories and therefore provide jobs gives short-term gains without the long-term, sustainable benefits that the Philippines needs. Even the United States discovered this fact in the late 1970s.

By 1976, the US economy could not have been in worse shape. The wealth of the world was held by Japan. Their manufacturing technology was highly advanced. The US did everything it could to bring in the Japanese money. Automobile factories were one area where big incentives were given. Many jobs were created. However, the longer-term benefits were non-existent.

Studies made on these investments showed that the real winners were the "foreigners." The Japanese reaped the long-term benefits because the profits from the factories went back to Japan. Further, the idea that a multimillion-dollar factory is not "hot money" proved false also. When the Japanese economy started slowing, the factories were sold and the investors went home.

Another result of encouraging this foreign investment was that local creativity was almost killed. When the foreigners started coming in, marginal companies started thinking about how they could sell out rather than how to improve and compete. One notable example that proves the rule is Lee Iaccoca and Chrysler Corp. He fought the US government to give his American company the incentives instead of to the foreigners. When he got the help that he needed, he turned Chrysler into a company that was not only able to compete but beat the Japanese auto industry.

Several people wrote me over the last two weeks, telling me I should send my comments to a particular public official. But the way our government is trying to build necessary foreign investment is foolish. And it is foolish to assume the government is going to listen to any ideas that require creative thinking and hard work. It is much easier to give tax holidays to some foreign rubber shoe factory that provides a few hundred jobs.

The last creative program (which also required a lot of hard work) was the build-operate-transfer scheme of the Ramos administration. The idea that foreign investment would build a project, make a profit from it for a limited period of time, and then turn it back was unheard of and initially rejected. However, it proved to be a big success and has been copied in many other countries. The BOT scheme could be applied in other areas besides public works projects. And big economic incentives ought to be given to this type of investment.

The other area where incentives should be given in is joint venture investments with local companies. Regardless of the problems, the privatization of MWSS will provide profound and lasting benefits because of the money and expertise the foreigners brought in. But the control and long-term interest remains Filipino. Virtually all joint venture projects, even small ones, should have economic priority and administrative and taxation breaks.

However, a change from current policy requires a change in our individual attitudes and habits. When Malaysia imposed currency controls, the foreigners fled and the people had to economically tighten their belts until the lasting advantages kicked in. We would have to do the same.

What could this economy do with just even an extra billion pesos a year? How many classrooms, houses, and jobs could a billion pesos create? And why do we think we have to rely on the foreigners for that money.

The average person does not realize their own individual impact on the economy. For example, Filipinos spend so much money providing jobs for Americans, Europeans and Japanese. It is an economic sin.

We buy a huge amount of foreign goods that provide jobs to other countries that we could easily give up to help our own country. Imagine 200,000 INQUIRER readers spending only P100 per week on local, instead of imported items. That is P1 billion a year. And here is how you do it. Instead of packaged ready-to-eat cereals with all the imported ingredients, give your kids *lugaw* or champorado, or egg and bread for breakfast. Not as easy but better for the country. Take your vacation in Boracay or even Bacolod instead of Hong Kong. This one you are going to hate. Every time you buy a product, be it fast food, toothpaste, or soft drink with a foreign brand name, a portion of your cost goes overseas in licensing or royalty payments. That is how you keep a billion pesos a year in the hands of Filipinos and not foreigners. Is it that difficult? It has got be easier than trying to attract an extra billion a year in foreign investment. And it is much better for the country in the long-term.

Let me share with you a final example of how foolish attracting foreign investment can become. Recently, former President Fidel Ramos went to Hong Kong, selling the Philippines. He met with top Hong Kong government leaders and businessmen to tell our investment story. He delivered personal messages from President Macapagal-Arroyo. His last stop was in Macau where he met with the chief executive of the Macau SAR and the chairman of the Macau Chamber of Commerce. He was warmly welcomed and asked for and received a pledge from the Chambers' chairman to bring a trade mission to the Philippines to look for investment opportunities. In fact, President Ramos was quoted as telling the chairman to bring not 20 but 60 investors with him on his trip. And the name of the chairman of the Macau Chamber of Commerce? Dr. Stanley Ho, former board chairman of BW Resources fame.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35. Fax Number 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Steelcorp seen getting $100M in loan, equity

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

STEEL Corporation of the Philippines, the biggest steel manufacturer in the country, is working out a fresh investment deal worth $100 million to beef up its core operations and eliminate concerns on its capability to service debts.

In an interview, Steelcorp president Rolando Narciso said the company had tapped Investment Capital Corporation of the Philippines (ICCP) to wrap up the new deal, which is a combination of fresh equity and loan from various foreign investors.

This developed as INQUIRER sources said that Steelcorp was seeking a 90-day deferral of interest amortization from a syndicate of lenders to give the company some breathing room to manage its cash flow due to the difficult economic environment, They said Steelcorp remained in a competitive shape but was being heavily burdened by P3 billion worth of debt.

But Narciso stressed that Steelcorp remained current in its servicing of debts and had no need to ask banks for any concession. However, he said the company would need lenders' support by "helping provide the conditions that would facilitate the entry of new investors." He said Steelcorp would not seek any suspension of payments or restructuring.

He said Steelcorp might be able to finalize the $100-million deal by the end of this month. Otherwise, he assured that the company had a contingent plan, but he declined to elaborate.

The company has already obtained a six-month rollover of maturing debt last December and was confident that the entry of new investors would ease its debt burden. Narciso said ICCP was now talking to two big names in the Asian steel industry from Japan and Korea for the equity part of the $100-million deal.

Of the $100-million package being worked out, $41 million will be in the form of equity infusion which will allow the new investor to acquire a minority stake in the steel company. The remaining amount will be in the form of a new credit facility.

The equity component of the $100-million deal, Narciso said, would be used to retire a big portion of the company's debts while the rest would be used "as a permanent working capital in lieu of existing trade and bank credits."

"We are sure to get the new investors. Their entry is just a matter of time," Narciso said.

The sources said PCI Capital Corp., which was tapped by Steelcorp to arrange the rollover deal with creditors last December, was now again handling the new negotiations with creditor-banks.

Of Steelcorp's P3-billion debt burden, Narciso said two-thirds consisted of foreign loans while P1 billion represented domestic borrowings. The company spends around P800 million each year to service these debts. Among the company's local lenders are Equitable PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Development Bank of the Philippines.

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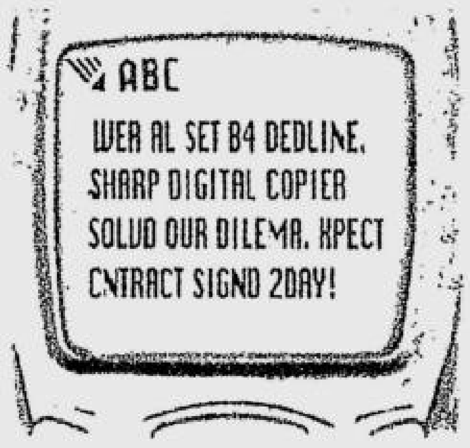

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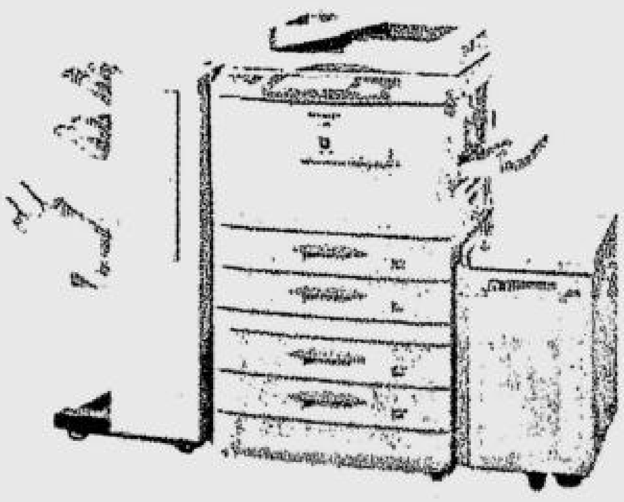

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Cautious stock trade seen

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL stock investors are seen trading with caution this week as they continue to grope for the market's bottom.

Some bargain-hunting spree recovered some of last week's early losses, renewing hopes that the market would resolve its looming dilemma in favor of an uptrend soon.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 5.59 points or 0.39 percent to close at 1,410.50 on Friday. Early losses were brought by the negative investor sentiment triggered by the sharp contraction in the country's April export receipts as well as poor corporate earnings prospects.

But the rebound was still seen as fragile because it lacked institutional buying of blue chips and was instead news-driven involving second-liner issues.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the Phisix was still at a critical technical point as it was now trading within major support and resistance levels wherein a breakout to either side would determine its direction.

"The main index has not gotten out of this tight range as it has remained within its present levels for the past few weeks. It's hard to predict which way the Phisix will go as volume is not manifesting any inclinations. Notwithstanding, there's growing evidence that a significant bottom is being formed," Vistan said.

But even if the Phisix should breach the major resistance instead, Vistan said the technical picture remained shaky as recent rallies were anchored on low volumes.

"This is because the market's recent rallies have been based on momentum, rather than improved fundamentals. Wait for the Phisix to resolve itself. We are in a transition period and with little news to drive the market, this period of indecisiveness may take longer than we expect. With little to spur further activity, shares could linger in a narrow range as investors dig for clues about the direction of the economy and the strength of corporate earnings," he said.

MARKET PLAY

BPI Securities technical analyst Roberto Cano, believes otherwise, saying the breaching of the immediate downtrend line at 1,406 might signal a possible shift to an uptrend.

"The gap opening and the 1,400 psychological support was sustained which suggests strength for the market. The market volume also improved," Cano said.

"If the market continues with the rally next week, this would confirm the market's strength. For the past months, the market has been consolidating within the range of 1,376 to 1,490. We suggest to take the corrections as an opportunity to accumulate on weakness," he said.

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Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	210,000
Club Filipino	290,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	425,000-Pls call
Evercrest	110,000
Fontana A B C D	Please call
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	240/260/450
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Manila Golf (Indv)	15M
Manila Golf (Cor)	16.5M
Manila Polo	3.750M
Manila Southwoods "A" / B	800/950
Makati Sports "A"/B/C	250/300/500
Mt. Malarayat "A"	325,000
Orchard "A"	280/400/500
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Riviera A/B/C	250/350/550
Sta. Elena A/B	2.1M/Please call
Sherwood/Subic Yacht/Golf	Please call
Subic Yacht (Corp)/Tagaytay Midlands	640,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	420,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	900,000
Valle Verde CC	190,000
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Wack Wack	8,450,000

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Canlubang Golf	900,000
Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	200,000
Club Filipino	280,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	425,000/Please call
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	240/250/450
Manila Golf (Indv)	15M
Manila Golf (Cor)	16.5M
Manila Polo	3.750M
Manila Southwoods "A" / B	800/950
Makati Sports "A"/B/C	250/300/550
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Calatagan Golf Club "A"	100,000	115,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	150,000
Camp John Hay	300,000	360,000
Canlubang		900,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	125,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	-	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	210,000	Please Call
Club Filipino	-	330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	130,000
Forest Hills "A"	235,000	250,000
Forest Hills "B"	235,000	280,000
Forest Hills "C"		400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"		425,000
Makati Sports Club "B"		450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	18,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,700,000	15,500,000
Manila Polo	3,600,000	3,900,000
Manila Southwoods "A"		830,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	950,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	160,000	200,000
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Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	Please Call
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Mt. Malarayat	300,000	-
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Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	400,000
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Philippine Columbian	85,000	-
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Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,100,000
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Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
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3	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
4	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	-	880,000.00
5	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	450,000.00	350,000.00
6	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		133,000.00
7	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	please call	-
8	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	480,000.00	
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10	FOREST HILLS	250,000.00	
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,600,000.00
13	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (individual)	15,500,000.00	-
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	870,000.00	-
15	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	-	900,000.00
16	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	30,000.00	-
17	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	550,000.00	450,000.00
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23	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	
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2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		2,200,000
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	820,000	
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150,000	100,000
5	CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	350,000
6	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8	CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	200,000
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450,000	400,000
10	CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	
11	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
12	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
13	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"		100,000
14	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND)	15,500,000	
21	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,900,000	3,500,000
22	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000	
23	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	1,000,000	950,000
24	MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180,000	160,000
26	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	
27	MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND)	400,000	
28	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	
29	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
31	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"	200,000	140,000
32	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
33	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500,000
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36	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000	
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Lack of law on laundering hurting banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN institutions are penalizing local banks for the government's failure to enact an anti-money laundering measure, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said foreign counterparts of local banks, particularly correspondent banks, were closely scrutinizing Philippine transactions, requiring local banks to submit more documents, and in some instances even asking local lenders to sign a waiver on deposit secrecy policies.

An INQUIRER source cited First Union Bank of California, the correspondent bank of Bank of the Philippine Islands in the United States, as having required BPI to sign a waiver on secrecy laws for its current account deposits.

Reyes said foreign counterparts started to apply stringent rules on Philippine accounts during the impeachment trial against former President Estrada late last year.

He said the pressure was expected to build up after the Philippines was blacklisted last July by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force as well as by the United States a few months later as one of the 14 "uncooperative" countries when it comes to money laundering.

"If the pressure intensifies, our foreign transactions would take longer, they would require more documents and eventually, it would become more expensive for our local banks," the BSP official said.

The growing pressure, Reyes added, was the reason why the government would put together an omnibus anti-laundering bill that would tackle measures against fraud and racketeering as well as ease the country's strict deposit secrecy law.

A lack of a solid legislation against money laundering aggravated by a concrete case of local laundering during the "Juetengate" scandal was the reason why the country remained in the list of countries considered notorious when it comes to enforcing anti-laundering measures.

This was the same reason why local banks were feeling the pinch, which could worsen and lead to a migration of local clients to foreign lenders if the measures are not put in place, Reyes said.

"We are considered as one of the countries perceived to be doing nothing against money laundering and this we intend to correct because in reality, we have done everything except pass the law," the BSP official said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 8, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72	73	71.5	73	745,200
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	440
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	39	38.5	38.5	139,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	219	217	218	425,950
Philippine National Bank	50	50	49	49	84,200
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	21	21	18,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	1,500
Financial Service					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1340	1325	1335	5,420
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1160	1165	1155	1165	29,190
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	38	38	38	3,600
Diversified Fin. Network	8.3	8.3	7.9	7.9	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.46	840,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	660	660	10
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	500,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Piltel	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	675	660	670	211,070
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.93	0.8	0.93	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.039	0.041	0.039	0.04	190,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	60,700
Manila Electric Co. B	55.5	56.5	55	55	701,700
Petron Corp.	2.3	2.38	2.3	2.34	15,255,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.65	2.75	2.5	2.75	14,753,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,280,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	1,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	38,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	4,360,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.25	701,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	361,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	27	27	26.5	27	92,300
RFM Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.32	647,000
San Miguel Corp. A	42	42	41.5	41.5	22,100
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	153,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5	5	5	5	67,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.75	0.69	0.75	140,000
Ayala Corp.	7.2	7.2	7	7	1,237,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.58	1.52	1.54	1,034,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.5	11	11.25	3,500
A. Soriano Corporation	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.56	23,650,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	210,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.64	1.66	16,470,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	330,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	260,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	2,700,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.12	1.12	727,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp	1.8	2.5	1.8	2.5	14,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.75	24	55,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.25	1,350,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	24,600
Ipeople, Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	132,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	53,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.8	0.76	0.77	1,630,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	680,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.8	5.4	5.4	12,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,560,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	2.26	2.46	2.26	2.44	961,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.095	0.0925	0.095	1,800,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
Spi Technologies Inc	15.75	15.75	15.5	15.75	46,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	8,640,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.61	0.55	0.58	10,970,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.53	0.47	0.48	1,840,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	650,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38	38	38	38	6,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	4,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	2.2	2.22	2.2	2.22	70,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	94,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	91,000,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.032	92,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.95	4.75	4.9	9,233,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	140,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	600,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	5,770,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.4	2.44	2.34	2.34	9,563,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	340,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,230,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,000,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	10,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	40,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	40,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	64,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	700,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.245	0.23	0.245	2,250,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	700,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	6,800,000
South China Resources Inc	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	70,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,399,700	195,727,830.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	493,223,280	367,464,605.00
PRO	30,526,000	85,147,210.00
Mining	158,860,000	1,622,100.00
OIL	18,570,000	167,300.00
GRAND TOTALS :	702,578,980	650,129,045.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	594.30	UP 1.81
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,965.10	DOWN 1.46
PRO	525.65	UP 2.78
Mining	1,099.82	DOWN 13.24
OIL	1.47	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	770.86	UP 10.09
Composite	1,410.50	UP 3.85

NO. OF ADVANCES: 44; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 110; NO. OF TRADES: 3,483

CURRENCIES

June 8, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.175917	1.000000	50.7620
Japan	Yen	0.009791	0.008326	0.4226
United Kingdom	Pound	1.638405	1.393300	70.7267
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.150764	0.128210	6.5082
Switzerland	Franc	0.656277	0.558098	28.3302
Canada	Dollar	0.772917	0.657289	33.3653
Singapore	Dollar	0.148413	0.126210	6.4067
Australia	Dollar	0.610549	0.519211	26.3562
Bahrain	Dinar	3.119310	2.652661	134.6544
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.313570	0.266660	13.5362
Brunei	Dollar	0.647175	0.550358	27.9373
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000090	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.026050	0.022153	1.1245
UAE	Dirham	0.320195	0.272294	13.8222
Korea	Won	0.000915	0.000778	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.850400	43.1680
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.434803	22.0715
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129643	6.5809
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.385895	19.5888
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061801	3.1371
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021081	1.0701
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000439	0.0223
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.143027	7.2603
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004242	0.2153
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005111	0.2594
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.021081	1.0701
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.079785	54.8120

IN THE WRONG HANDS

SSS, GSIS: Puppet masters

By Doris C. Dumlao

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

THEY are among the most powerful financial institutions in the Philippines and are, therefore, widely looked up to as an ideal catalyst to develop the local capital market and champions of good corporate governance.

In the wrong hands, however, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System can be used to make a puppet out of a free market, influence mergers and acquisitions, and even create wealth for an unscrupulous few at the expense of the many.

During the short-lived regime of disgraced President Joseph Estrada, these pension funds unfortunately ended up in the wrong hands. Taking advantage of very thin volumes, Estrada and his cronies used the SSS and GSIS to prop up the stock prices of companies where they held sizable shares. They earned huge profits by selling when their stocks hit their peak prices, but they left behind a battered and very disillusioned market. The sentiment against Estrada among stock investors was so negative that on the first trading day right after the former leader was ousted through a military-backed civilian revolt on Jan. 23 this year, the key stock index rose 17.56 percent amid a value turnover of P7.1 billion. People were very eager to trade solely on the fact that Estrada was no longer in power because they knew that there was now a chance of getting a fair deal.

The Estrada administration's misdeeds also greatly eroded the credibility and integrity of the SSS and GSIS.

Invisible hand

In a country where very few people trade in stocks due to a poor savings rate and scarce foreign investments, it is impossible not to feel the impact of major players like the SSS and GSIS. It was the thin daily value turnover—averaging P500 million or less—that gave them undue strength. With the absence of institutional investors who were willing to buy stocks from the worst-performing stock market in Asia and the second-worst performing in the world last year, the SSS and GSIS could easily sway the market by releasing its cash hoard to some favored companies. Over the last two years, stock investors eagerly took their cue from these institutions. Predicting their stock plays correctly meant huge bonanzas.

A local stockbroker said the impact of the SSS' and GSIS' "investment adventurism" would have been negligible or easily neutralized had it been done at a time when the stock market was teeming with cash.

Historically, these pension funds had always been vulnerable to political pressures, but they had never been used as blatantly to influence the stock market for some political or financial gains as they were by the Estrada administration. In many instances, the SSS and GSIS bought shares just to give the impression of a vibrant stock market. Whenever the market went up without fundamental or technical bases, it was a foregone conclusion that the SSS and GSIS were there to boost the market.

The new SSS president, Vitaliano Nañagas II, himself admits that the SSS "should not be 'the' player in the market because it's against the rules that we are the biggest buyers and biggest sellers. It was not supposed to happen."

"Even if you look at the data—the daily trades of the SSS—and compare (them) with the daily trades at the PSE, you will find that it was only in the previous regime that it was like that. Before, there were limits and controls," Nañagas added.

The Social Security Act of 1997 allowed the SSS to invest P3 out of every P10 of its funds in equities from the previous P1. This higher ceiling was used by Nañagas' predecessor, Carlos "Chuckie" Arellano, to the hilt, giving the new SSS leadership very little room when it comes to its stock investments.

"The investment in stocks was brought up from P10 billion to P50 billion at the time the market was going down. What did that mean? That meant that we got a bigger and bigger chunk of the market. The market was dominated by the pension funds, and it's a problem," Nañagas said.

GSIS president Winston Garcia has the same assessment of his predecessor, Federico Pascual.

"The investment of pension funds should not be a political decision. We should tell the politicians to stay away and not poke their fingers into the pension funds. Investments should be a sound investment decision," Garcia, himself a former Cebu politician, said.

"If only (the previous GSIS leadership) followed the basic policies of the GSIS in investments, I don't think they'd have lost a lot. They should have followed our criteria before investing in the stock market," he said.

The GSIS has a total investment portfolio of about P160 billion, slightly lower than the SSS' P180 billion.

Like the SSS, the GSIS also raised the percentage of its funds that it could invest in stocks to 30 percent. Unlike the SSS, however, the GSIS is not bound by a law that sets a cap on its stock investments. In an extreme case, it can put all its money in stocks and run itself to the ground.

Garcia estimated that the GSIS' stock investments swelled by 35 percent under the Estrada administration.

Adventurism

The SSS' and GSIS' buying binge resulted in the accumulation of stocks that were not exactly conservative in nature and are currently not performing well.

SSS vice president for investment Edgar Solilapsi said the SSS currently holds stocks of 24 companies. "Prospects on some of these stocks are not encouraging," he admitted.

"Clearly, there is a need to instill greater financial and technical discipline in stock selection to be able to improve the quality of the SSS equity portfolio," he said.

Nañagas said there wouldn't have been any problem had the SSS, under Arellano, accumulated stocks classified as core assets, like blue-chip firm San Miguel Corp. Instead, he said, the pension fund bought stocks "where we have no business investing in," like gaming firms Belle Corp. and Waterfront Philippines Inc.

He said one sound decision that he was thankful his predecessor made was avoiding BW Resources Corp. BW Resources, a gaming firm owned by one of former President Joseph Estrada's close allies, was at the center of one of the biggest stock price manipulation scams in the stock exchange's history. Investigations by the stock exchange showed that a group of big stockbrokerages connived through insider trading and illegal practices to boost BW Resource's stock price from as low as P10 to as high as P110 in just one year. When the scam fell apart, the company's share price plunged rapidly back to P10 in just a few days. It burned a lot of investors. Fortunately, the SSS was not one of them.

The scandal, however, greatly dissipated whatever trust investors had on the stock exchange.

Belle case

In the case of leisure and estate firm Belle, insiders said the SSS originally had enough shares to control more than just a single board seat. Some of these shares had already been un loaded using the "averaging down" technique, which meant additional shares of the same stock were bought at a lower price to offset losses from the original purchase price.

The Belle investments were part of the plunder cases that the Office of the Ombudsman originally slapped against Estrada. Former SSS and GSIS heads Arellano and Pascual had expressed willingness to testify how Estrada used these pension funds for his own personal gain.

Arellano admitted that the former President pressured him into investing around P745 million worth of shares in Belle that, by anyone's standards, would have been considered anomalous because of the company's precarious financial conditions.

SSS/ B9

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

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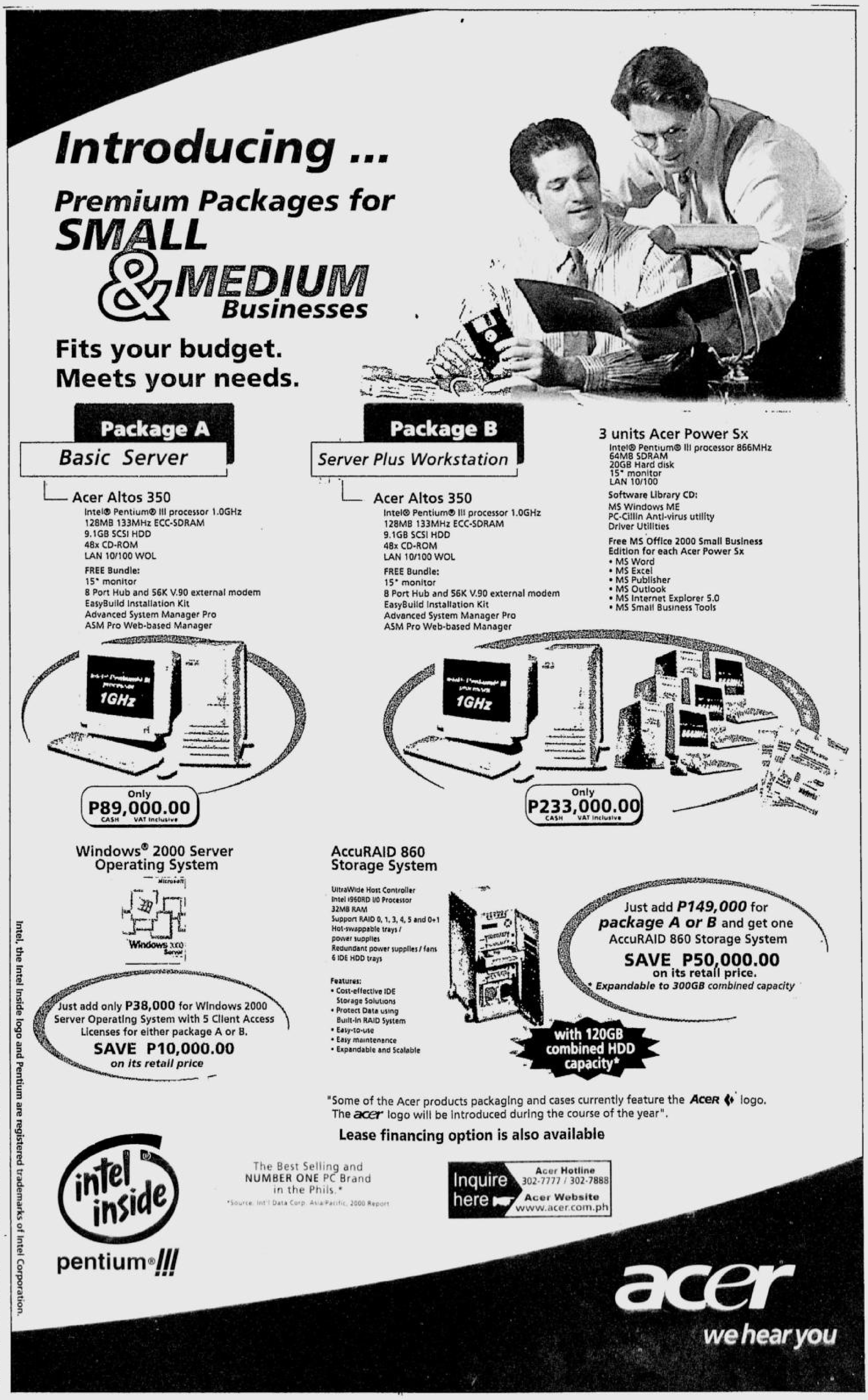
Act no. 1790, which was passed by the Philippine Commission on October 12, 1907, gave the stockholders of the bank the authority to change the name of their institution to the Bank of the Philippine Islands. The change in the name eventually took effect on January 1, 1912.

150 YEARS



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Mimosa Regency to reopen this month

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Expect slot machines to be ringing wildly and card games to go on until the wee hours of the morning again when Mimosa Regency Casino re-opens late this month.

The Regency—closed for almost three years and the subject of a bitter quarrel among gambling buddies of deposed President Estrada—will be managed by the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., according to Emmanuel Angeles, Clark Development Corp. president and chief executive officer.

However, Pagcor will manage the casino for only one year or until the completion of the privatization of the entire 315-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate here.

The CDC took control of the estate in December 1998 from its owner, former Tourism Secretary Jose Antonio Gonzalez.

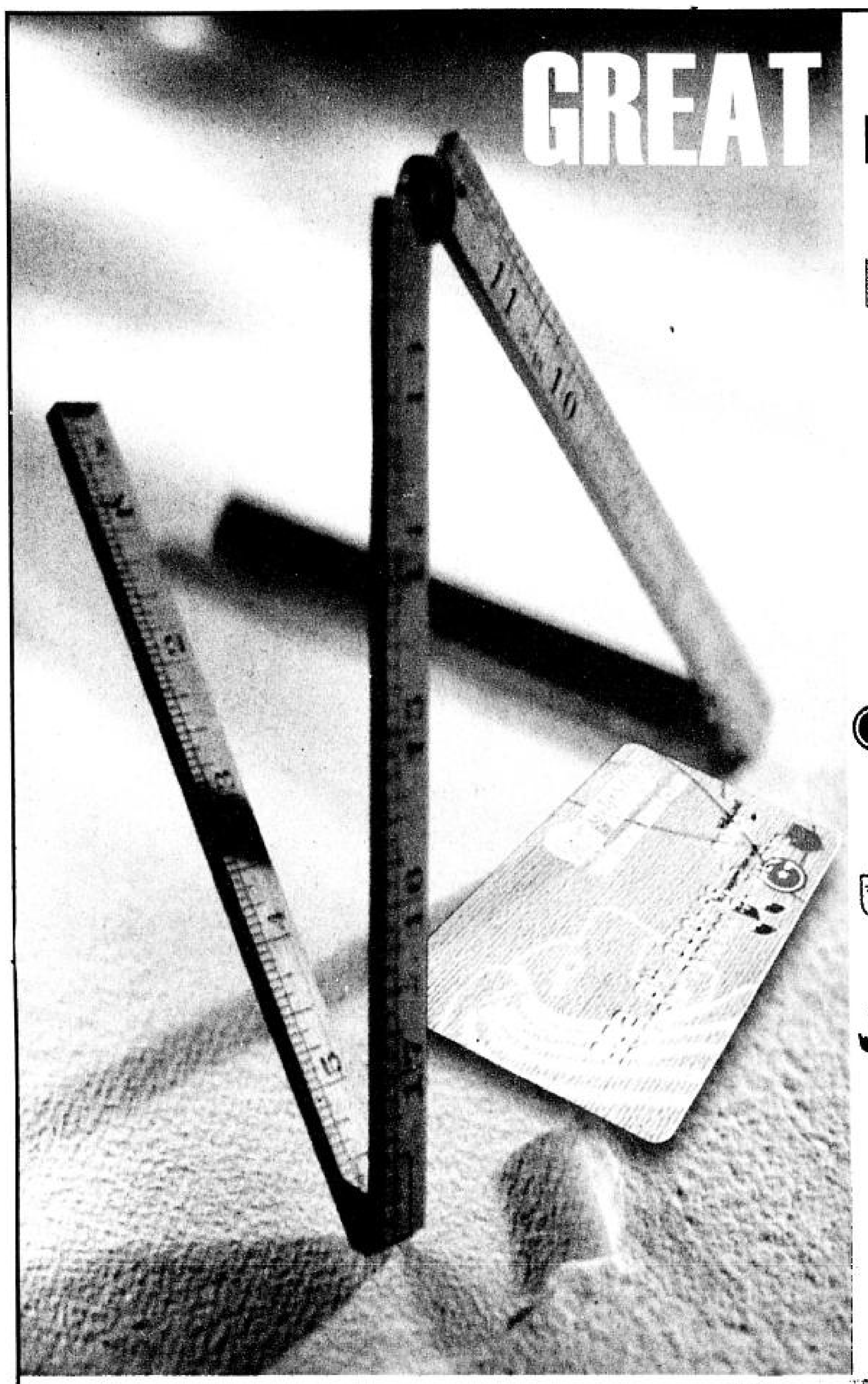
Gonzalez's Mondragon Leisure and Resort Corp., which used to run the estate, owes CDC, Pagcor, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and 27 private creditors a total of P7 billion. Under the new arrangement, Pagcor stands to get 75-percent share of the casino's gross income. The CDC expects to receive 12.5 percent while secured creditor-banks will get 6.25 percent. Gonzalez and his other creditors will share the remaining 6.25-percent share.

Gonzalez, according to Angeles, has agreed to this scheme. He said Penta Capital had withdrawn its proposal to revive the debt-ridden estate and submitted a fresh plan.

Pagcor plans to hire at least 300 people, preferably former Regency employees, he said.

The reopening of the casino will spur tourism activities at the zone, Angeles said. He said high rollers from Taiwan, Malaysia, China, Singapore and Hong Kong are expected to make Clark their destination again via the Clark International Airport.

Regency's reopening comes in the wake of a plunder case against Estrada who, according to Gonzalez, had allowed CDC officials to enter into an unfair arrangement with investors fronting for the former President and his cronies. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*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Ahw Cinema Complex
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Calvario,Meycauayan, Bulacan
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Pasay City
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/ 804-0488 / 804-0427

CM Recto
Vista Cinema Complex
1530 CM Recto Avenue
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel Nos 732-1632
/ 711-0094

Paco
1135 Pedro Gil Street
Paco, Manila
Tel Nos 524-4841
/ 524-4836 / 524-4832

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Amor Cinema III Complex
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Petron keeps top spot in LPG market

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

DESPITE losing the overall market lead, Petron Corp. maintained its dominance in the liquefied petroleum gas sector with a 32.7-percent market share in the first quarter.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., which gained the overall market lead during the period, cornered 27.7 percent of the LPG market while Caltex Philippines Inc. remained in the third spot with a share of 14.3 percent.

Of the 2.99 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent (MBFOE) of LPG sold in the first three months, Petron sold 978,403 against Shell's 828,672. Caltex sold 427,614 barrels from January to March this year.

Petron's Gasul and Shell's Shellane have consistently been the country's top two suppliers of LPG.

New industry players reported total sales of 759,572 barrels, accounting for 25.4 percent of the market. This was well within their 24-percent market share last year.

The new players—TotalFinaElf Philippines, Liquigaz Philippines Corp., Pryce Gas Inc., Petronas and Nation Gas—accounted for 18.9 percent of the LPG market in 1999 up from 9.9 percent in 1998.

After three years of the downstream oil industry deregulation, the new players have cornered a combined overall market share of 10 percent.

Earlier, the Philippine Institute of Petroleum reported that Shell had gained the lead over Petron Corp.

The institute said that as of the end of the first quarter, Shell was leading the local oil industry with a 38.3-percent share of the market against Petron's 37 percent.

Petron sold 9.7 MBFOE of petroleum products in the first three months of 2001 compared to 10.9 MBFOE in the same period last year.

This reflects an 11.4-percent decline for Petron, the biggest drop in the entire local oil industry.

Shell sold 10.014 MBFOE as of end-March this year compared with 10.041 MBFOE in 2000, down by 0.3 percent.

Shell said its gain was due to its "aggressive marketing and structural cost reduction."

Petron said it did not expect the situation to remain in the long run.

Petron said it deliberately gave up some of its domestic accounts and concentrated on exports, which gave it more earnings.

Petron expressed confidence on regaining the lead, saying it still had the biggest refining capacity locally, which was 180,000 barrels per day.

ECOP warns against corporate downsizing

IN THE global arena, forging peace of industrial restructuring is a must.

Personnel issues arising from mergers, consolidations and downsizing exercises that are handled badly can backfire and cause sharp productivity declines, if not life threatening situations, for these firms, Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) president Donald G. Dee warned.

He noted that as a result of the crisis and the intensification of competition due to the opening of the economy under globalization and economic liberalization, almost all industries are in an adjustment mode like restructuring, streamlining, reorganizing, reengineering, consolidating, merging, selling off, networking, and outsourcing.

Most adjustments, though, are generally painful and full of tensions. Dee cited, for instance, adjustments that lead to closures, retrenchments, downsizing and separations. Crisis, mergers, consolidations, technology adoption/adaptation, business alliances and networking, etc. are often used as the vehicles for rightsizing and engineering exercises, which unions and employees treat as nothing but downsizing formulas, he said.

According to Dee, while there is no surefire formula for engineering peace, there are good practices that can be emulated and which can be developed based on one's corporate culture and tradition.

The Ecop chief enumerated some good practices adopted by certain companies, which were awardees and finalists in the recent Kapatiran sa Industriya (Kapatid Awards conferred by Ecop). The Kapatid Awards are special awards recognizing the cooperative and collaborative efforts of labor and management to promote and attain industrial harmony, productivity and quality of work life through joint employer-employee programs and initiatives. Some of the good practices are:

- Using the crisis as an opportunity for labor and management to unite behind a common survival program and transform their adversarial relations into harmonious ones;
- Negotiating for a productivity-based compensation system;
- Going world-class by seeking global certifications not only on quality (ISO 9000 series) but also on social accountability (SA 8000) and environmental acceptability;
- Building up corporate culture and installing common positive values at all layers of the organization;
- Investing on skills development, innovativeness, teamwork, etc.; and
- Learning from each other and maintaining an open communication system horizontally, vertically and even diagonally.

Dee said saving jobs was also imperative. This, in fact, is commitment of the employers in the recent Employment Summit in Malacañang. *Philexport News & Features*

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GOINGS-ON

PNB Gen nets P18.8M

PNB General Insurers Co. Inc., the wholly owned non-life insurance subsidiary of the Philippine National Bank, posted a net income of P18.818 million in the first four months of the year.

This was 18 percent higher than the $17.457 million earned in the same period last year. Gross premiums amounted to P87.745 million for the four-month period.

PNB Gen president Jose B. Zuñiga said the higher net results could be traced to improved operational and underwriting efficiency leading to lower claims and lower administrative costs.

Feliciano L. Miranda Jr., PNB president and PNB Gen's chair, said he was confident that PNB Gen will meet if not exceed the whole year income target of P74 million, or 29 percent more than last year's net income of P57 million.

PNB Gen is targeting a premium production of P342 million, which is 12 percent higher than last year's production level of P305 million.

ABS-CBN, 2TradeAsia.com venture

ABS-CBN has forged a partnership with Yapster e-Trade Inc. for an information swap. 2TradeAsia.com's (Yapster e-Trade's website) financial news and research can now be viewed through abs-cbnnews.com and PinoyCentral.com, while ABS-CBN's updated news headlines will be available on 2TradeAsia.com.

As a novice in the cyberworld, 2TradeAsia recognizes the benefits of its partnership with the Lopez-owned broadcast network.

The website was launched in September as the first and only financial website that integrates the transactional ability of online stock trading with real-time portfolio management capabilities. It is one of the Internet companies owned and managed by Yapster e-Conglomerate.

SSS, GSIS: Puppet masters

(From page B7)

A statement from another close associate of Estrada, Belle vice chair Willy Ocier, corroborated Arellano's claim by providing an explanation as to why the former President insisted on investing in Belle. Ocier revealed that Estrada earned at least P189 million in commissions from the sale of Belle shares to the SSS.

The shares sold to the SSS and GSIS came from a portion of subscribed and paid rights offering conducted by Belle in late 1999. With the deal, Belle shareholders who took up this portion were not only able to find an exit mechanism but were able to profit as well, having been able to sell the shares at around P2.50 from the original acquisition cost of only P1.50. Without Estrada's influence, however, the pension funds would not have voluntarily bought into the company.

The SSS was also allegedly used by Estrada to help Waterfront Philippines Inc. of "plastics king" William Gatchalian raise cash to fund its expansion binge. Waterfront later on acquired Davao Insular Hotel and the Fort Ilocandia Resort Hotel. In her testimonies during Estrada's Senate impeachment trial, Equitable PCI Bank Inc. executive vice president Clarissa Ocampo said Waterfront was the beneficiary of a P500-million loan Estrada extended using one of his accounts with Equitable. *(To be continued)*

VITARICH

VITARICH CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
29 June 2001 at 2:00 P.M.
Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of **VITARICH CORPORATION** (the "Corporation") will be held on **Friday, June 29, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. at the Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice to Stockholders and Presence of a Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Stockholders' Meeting
4. Report by the Chairman - Chief Executive Officer / President - Chief Operating Officer
5. Confirmation and Ratification of the Acts of the Board of Directors and Officers
6. Election of Directors for the Ensuing Year
7. Appointment of External Auditors
8. Appointment of the Stock and Transfer Agent
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

For the purpose of determing the stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting, the record date is 30 May 2001. The Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from 30 May 2001 to 29 June 2001.

Proxies must be submitted to the Special Committee of Election Inspectors of the Corporation at the Executive Office of the Corporation at the Vitarich Corporation Compound, MacArthur Highway, Bo. Abangan Sur, Marilao Bulacan on or before 19 June 2001. Proxies shall be validated by the Special Committee of Inspectors of the Corporation at the Executive Office of the Corporation on 22 June 2001.

On the day of the meeting, you or your duly designated proxy are hereby required to bring this Notice and any form of identification such as driver's license, passport, company I.D., voter's I.D., or TIN Card to facilitate registration. Registration will start at 1:00 p.m. and will close at 1:45 p.m.

TADEO F. HILADO
Corporate Secretary

Main Office: Abangan Sur, Mc.Arthur Highway, Marilao, Bulacan, Philippines
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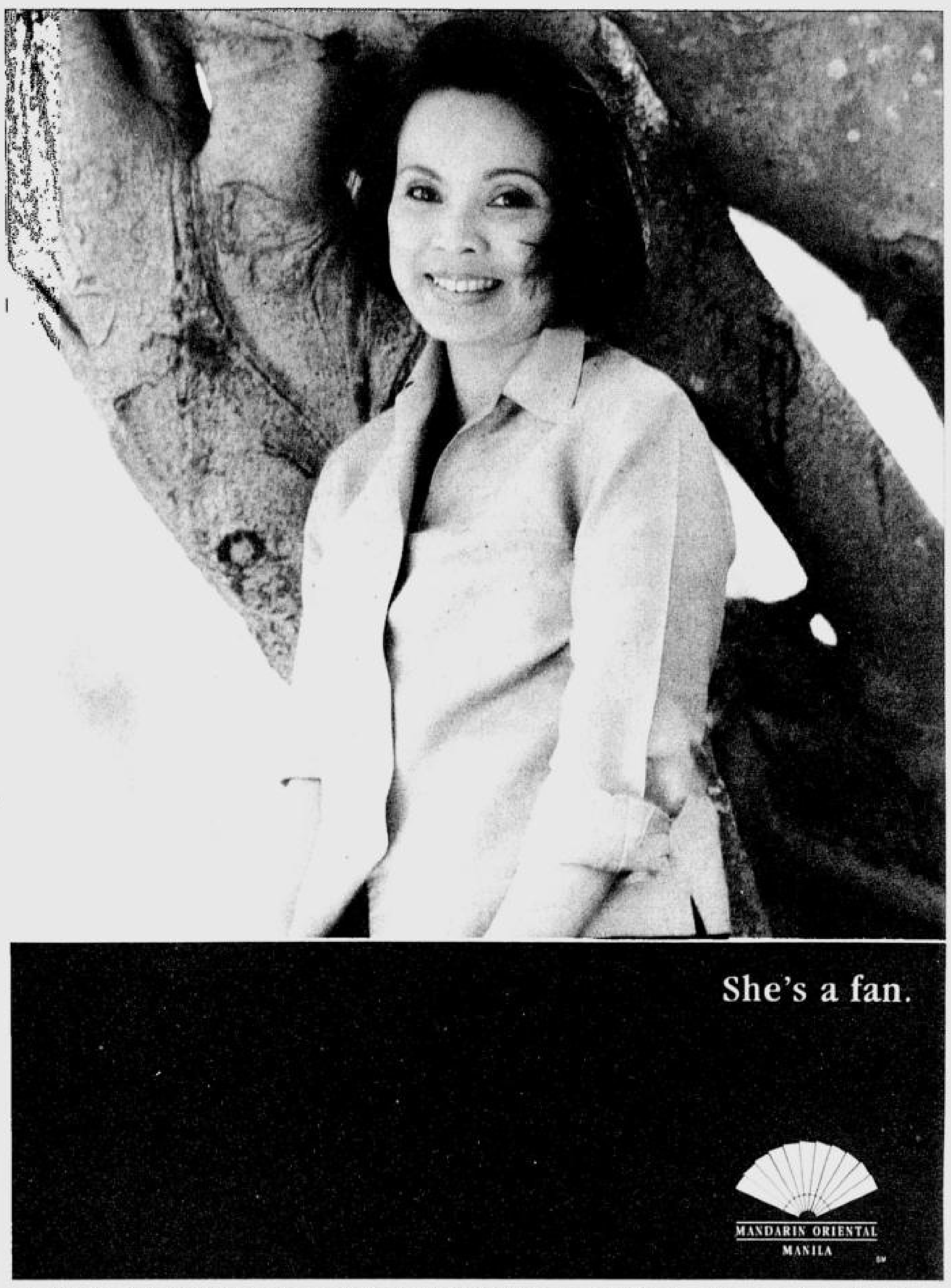

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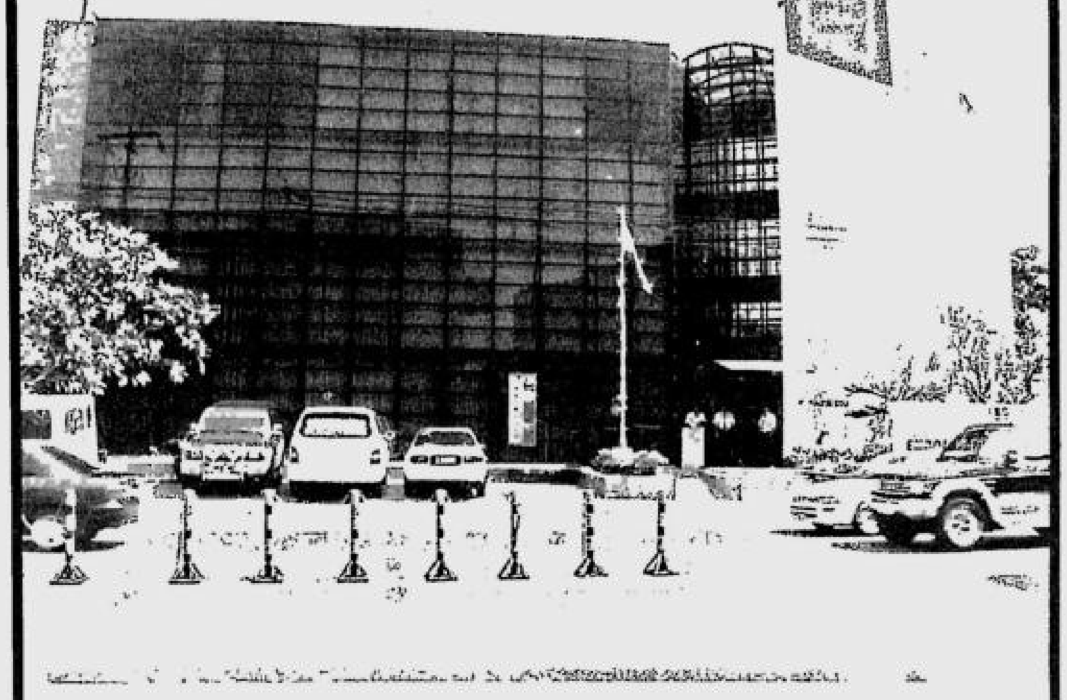

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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HOME APPLIANCE

REF 6&2 Dr/4&6cu.ft 7767507 34"TV

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Rott Champ's Grandpups 2 mo M&F P10Tup T9488240 Lab Choco Male 2yrs

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B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T8342886

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Applicants for the said position must have:

1. Masteral degree or its equivalent
2. Excellent communication skills both verbal and written
3. Strong interpersonal skills
4. Minimum 2 years experience working in an active cooperative organization
5. Must be computer literate

Interested applicants are requested to send their application letter and resumé to the Chairman on or before June 30, 2001.

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NO. 5 AMONG TOP 20 CRIMINOLOGY SCHOOLS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AS PER RESULTS OF P.R.C. CRIMINOLOGY LICENSURE EXAMINATION - MARCH, 2001.

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W Steno knowledge
724-5126 / 724-5156

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW Ideal 4 Tiange 3738821

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Esteban M. Portacio Sr. & Concordia P. Portacio has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. 120, Page 24, Book 1, Series of 2000 before Notary Public Arnulfo Canivel at Pasay City
(PDI- June 11,18, & 25 2001)

PERSONAL

Billiard
(600sq.m) w/Ofc. Inside, compl kitchen equipt food warmer, 14 New Billiard tables, w/karaoke machine. Nr. School w/Reg. custr / oprtl & Fully furn (Add. 30 Colon St.,) Lala (02) 929-3321 • (0917) 8969674

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines - Diliman Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested contractors to submit their prequalification documents for the Infrastructure Construction & Renovation Projects of UP Diliman for the calendar year 2001. Only licensed contractors (at least Category C) with IAC registration will be accepted. Specialty contractors for Landscaping, Electrical, Waterproofing, Communication and other infrastructure specialty works will also be prequalified as separate groups. Contractors who are eligible will be invited to bid on the following Projects:

PROJECT TITLE

1. AMOR Projects, NSRI, MBB
2. Coll. of Architecture Bldg. 1, Phase 2
3. Proposed Faculty Lounge and Store Room, CSSP
4. College of Music Annex Bldg., Phase 2
5. Completion of EEE Bldg., Coll. Of Engineering
6. Computer Laboratory, CSSP Dept. of Euro. Languages
7. Proposed Gutter and Downspouts at Bocobo Hall
8. Construction of Fence, FLCD/CDC, CHE
9. NIP Building, Phase 1-B, Institute of Physics
10. CSWCD Bldg., Phase 4-B
11. Electrical Power for ACUs, Math Building
12. Installation of Vinyl Floor Tiles, NSRI
13. Power Supply for Workstations, College of Law
14. Proposed Waiting Shed, Film Center
15. Proposed Water Supply Sys. @ Bolinao Project, MSI
16. Renovation of MBA Classrooms, CBA
17. Repair of Gymnasium Roof, CHK
18. Renovation of Toilet & Kitchenette, CBA
19. Retiling of Floors at Lobby and Corridors of Malcolm Hall
20. Renov. of Toilets and Rehab. of Plumbing Sys., Malcolm Hall
21. Rewiring & Rehab. of Electrical System of Benton Hall
22. Repainting of Interiors, Malcolm Hall, College of Law
23. Site Works, UP Mindanao Guest House
24. SOLAIR Bldg., Phase 3
25. Structural Crack Repair, Inst of Chemistry
26. Structured Cabling System: AIT Building
27. Structured Cabling System: College of Fine Arts & DIO
28. Structured Cabling System: Community Affairs Building
29. Structured Cabling System: CWS
30. Structured Cabling System: Engineering Library Building
31. Structured Cabling System: German Yia Hall
32. Structured Cabling System: Gonzales Hall
33. Structured Cabling System: Melchor Hall
34. Structured Cabling System: New CSWCD Building
35. Structured Cabling System: Office of Ardmissions
36. Structured Cabling System: OVCRD @ PHIVOLCS Bldg.
37. Structured Cabling System: Palma Hall
38. Structured Cabling System: PNB Bldg. UPHS
39. Structured Cabling System: SOLAIR Building
40. Structured Cabling System: Virata Hall
41. Structured Cabling System: Virata Hall
42. Upgrading of Electrical Entrance, Bocobo Hall
43. Upgrading of Electrical Entrance, Bocobo Hall
44. Various Renovation Works @ Albert Hall, MBB
45. Various Renovation Works @ Albert Hall, MBB
46. Various Renovation Works, UPHS

Prequalification forms are now available at the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), Coral Building, Lakandula Street corner De los Reyes Street, UP-Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of P200.00. Please call 920-5301 local 8032 / 8033 or 927-8856 for further inquiries.

A letter of intent addressed to the Chancellor through the BAC is to be submitted to the Office of the Campus Architect together with the accomplished forms. Deadline of submission of prequalification or eligibility documents is on or before 5 p.m., June 18, 2001.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any required formality in the bids received, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to the University. The University assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid proposals, nor that it guarantees that a selection will be made.

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

LIVELIHOOD & INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION!!!

WE ARE NOW CONSTRUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE PEOPLE'S CYBERMALL OR MALL IN THE INTERNET WHICH WILL HOUSE ALL POSSIBLE ITEMS WE NORMALLY SPEND FOR; FROM BASIC COMMODITIES & SERVICES TO DEGREE AND NON-DEGREE EDUCATION. IT WILL BE INITIALLY LAUNCHED ON AUGUST 19, 2001

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E-mail: *risephilippines@hotmail.com*
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Prospective cadets must meet the minimum requirements:

1. He must be single and not more than 25 years of age.
2. Minimum height 5 feet 4 inches.
3. No grade lower than 80% or 2.5 in any major subject.

Applicants shall submit the following:

1. Typewritten bio-data with passport picture.
2. Original and copy of Marine Engineering Diploma (AME or BSME).
3. Original and copy of Transcript of Records.
4. STCW95 Certificates, Seaman Registration Card, Seaman's Book and Passport which should all be valid for till December 2003 or later date.

Applicants can submit their documents to:

The Training Center
Seagull Maritime Corporation
5th Floor PCIB Building
Plaza Santa Cruz, Manila

THIS AD IS APPROVED BY POEA

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FIELD OPERATIONS
REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE NO. 02
CAGAYAN VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER
City of Tuguegarao, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Cagayan Valley Medical Center hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

A. Supply and delivery of various Drugs and Medicines, Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory Reagents, X-Ray & Dental supplies.

B. Hospital Equipment.

C. Office, Linen, Laundry and Housekeeping Supplies.

A pre-bidding conference will be held on June 18, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. at the Cagayan Valley Medical Center Conference Room, at which same venue the submission and opening of bids will be held on July 25, 2001 at 9:00 A.M. Pre-qualification and issuance of Bid documents will be from July 9-17, 2001.

Only pre-qualified bidders will be issued bid documents and allowed to participate in the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00)

Interested qualified bidders may obtain further details from the Cagayan Valley Medical Center Pre-qualification Bids and Awards Committee.

CVMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any formality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EMMANUEL F. ACLUBA, MD, MHA**
Chief of Hospital III

(PDI--June 4, 7 & 11, 2001)

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Registration date is on June 9 & 16, 2001
For more inquiries contact
tel. nos **6779746, 7524329**
Aurora Milestone Building,
1045 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City

Classes will be held every Saturday,
from **June 23 July 18, 2001**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JUAN
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Municipality of San Juan as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to prequalified to bid for the Concrete Paving of Cacapian Barangay Road, San Juan, La Union.

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	UNIT
000	Mobilization	L.S	L.S
	Bunkhouse	23.04	sq.m.
103	Structure Excavation	6,198.18	cu.m.
104	Embankment	1,160.40	cu.m.
105	Sub-Grade Preparation	7,342.32	cu.m.
200	Sub-Base Course	523.09	cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,848.12	cu.m
311	PCCP	1,785.62	L.M.
500	R.C. Pipe	60-pcs: 0.45 m 0 RCP	L.M.
		28-pcs: 0.60 m 0 RCP	L.M.
504	Grouted Rip-Rap	1,078.04	cu.m
L.S.	Taxes	10%	L.S.
L.S.	Contractor's Profit	10%	L.S.

Minimum Equipment Required:

1 unit Backhoe	Owned
1 unit Road Grader	Owned
1 unit Road Roller	Owned/Leased
1 unit Water Truck	Owned
3 units Concrete Mixer (One bagger)	Owned
Owner Type Jeep/Service Vehicle	

2. Pre-qualification (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the Office of the Mayor, San Juan, La Union and upon payment of nonrefundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for each set

3. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, municipality of San Juan, La Union not later 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2001.

4. The submission and opening of bids will be on July 19, 2001. No bids will be accepted later than 10:00 a.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% bidder's bond or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency

5. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive and defect of formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid and acept the bid most advantageous to the government. Labor: Unskilled labor for the construction of the above mentioned project CACAPIAN-ARC, San Juan, La Union will be sourced within the community.

(Sgd.) ARTURO P. VALDRIZ
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI - June 7, 11 & 15, 2001)

RUSH SALE.... HOUSE & LOT (corner lot)!!!

(1.336 sq.m. lot area. 600++ sq.m. flr area)
with newly built 2-storey extension house. Narra finish, with swimming pool, 12-car garage

Location: #54 Betty Go Belmonte St. (formerly Valley Rd.) very Near corner E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., New Manila, Quezon City

Interested parties may contact 0917-8995568 or 7217543

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all eligible bidders to prequalify and to bid for the year 2002 services to wit:

A. PUBLIC BIDDING
  1. Subscription to Local/Int'l Newspapers and Magazines Journals and Reviews
  2. Rental of Shuttle Bus
  3. Housekeeping
  4. HMO
  5. Preventive Maintenance of Computers and Peripherals
  6. Rental of Copier Machines
  7. Canteen Concessioning/Catering
  8. Senate Uniform
  9. Internet Subscription
  10. Timekeeping System

B. SEALED BIDDING
  1. Pest Control
  2. Sanitizers/Deodorizers
  3. Supply of Flowers
  4. Rental of Drinking Fountains
  5. Cooling Tower Water Treatment Program
  6. Supply of Gasoline
  7. Subscription to Cable TV
  8. Garbage Disposal

Prospective bidders for the PUBLIC BIDDING may obtain the prequalification requirements at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City from **13-22 June 2001**. Deadline for the submission of complete and duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **6 July 2001**. Incomplete requirements will not be entertained. The pre-bidding conferences and bidding schedules shall be announced to all prequalified bidders

All bids under the public bidding category must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price or Php 10,000 whichever is higher in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. **Late bids will be rejected.**

Bidders participating in the SEALED BIDDING may secure requirements from the Property and Procurement Services (PPS) located at Room 401, Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City from **13-22 June 2001**. Schedule of conferences for services under the same category will be announced later including the deadline for the dropping of bids.

Winning bidders from both categories shall post a performance bond in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total contract price. For prepaid contracts the performance bond shall be equivalent to one hundred percent (100%).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDERS REFUSE TO ACCEPT THEIR AWARD, AND TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN, AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING TO THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – June 7, 8 & 11, 2001)

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In Loving Memory

On The
Sixth Death Anniversary
of

Judge CARLOS Y. GONZALES

June 19, 1913 - June 11, 1995

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, June 11, 2001:

Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati .... 6:15 a.m.
St. James the Great Parish,
Cuenca Street, Ayala Alabang Village .... 6:20 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani and **St. Susana Parish**,
Alabang, Muntinlupa .... 6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Benedictine Abby Chapel, Alabang Hills, Alabang, Muntinlupa ..... 6:15 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy, Hillsborough, Alabang, Muntinlupa .... 6:00 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose Parish, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong .... 7:15 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Church, West Greenhills .... 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Redemptorist Church, Roxas Boulevard, Baclaran, Parañaque, Metro Manila ... 6:30 p.m.
Pius XII Catholic Center, U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila .... 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King Parish Church,
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City .... 7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Don Bosco Parish, Makati City .... 6:30 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral, Balanga, Bataan .... 5:30 a.m. & 6:30 a.m.
Alabang Country Club Ballroom, Ayala Alabang Village; June 10, 2001 .... 11:00 a.m.

His loving wife, **CEFERINA CASTILLO GONZALES**, children, grandchildren, sister, in-laws and friends request the pious readers to remember our dear CARLOS in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

We also wish to thank all relatives and friends who continue to pray for his soul, offered Masses and have expressed to his family the constancy of their love and friendship.

Our Dearly Beloved

TOMAS JAVIERTO BRIZUELA

Younger brother of Benito Javierto Brizuela passed away on June 9, 2001 at the age of 45, to be with our Lord.

Born on December 29, 1955, in Lucena City to the late Dionisio and Rosario Brizuela

His bereaved wife, Rosalinda; loving children; Annabelle, Lilian and Dionisio, Jr.; children-in-law; Melvin and Jojo
grandchildren; Irish and Nicole;
brothers Benito, Martin, Blas, Raffy;
sisters Louie, Angelita, Leony, Necy, Anna, Doris, Bebot;
relatives and friends,
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.
His remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel,
Quezon Avenue, Lucena City.
Interment will be on Thursday, June 14, 2001 at 2:00 p.m.
St. Ferdinand Memorial Park.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

We design
OBITUARIES
for free.

Our Dearly Beloved

JOAQUIN "CHO" S. FLORES

Peacefully joined our Creator
on June 9, 2001 at the age of 76.

His son **Emmanuel** requests the friends of Joaquin to pay their last respects.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 12, 2001 after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

In my Father's house are many rooms; I go and prepare a place for you so that where I am there you may be also John 14:2

Rodolfo B. Serrano

Joined the company of his Creator on June 8, 2001
at the age of 58.

His bereaved wife Elsa; children Pinky, Hazel, Anthony and Marlon; sisters Luz, Soledad and Leticia; sons-in-law Patrick and Roy; grandchild Shae, nephews and nieces, and other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Filipinas at JP Rizal, Makati.

Interment will be announced later.

So deeply missed, so deeply remembered.

"To Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul."

In Loving Memory
On the Sixth Death Anniversary of

Genoveva "Olive" Veneracion Villanueva

who joined his Creator on June 11, 1995

Holy Masses are being offered today, June 11, 2001
at the following churches:

Immaculate Heart of Mary Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City, 7:00 AM
Lourdes Church, Baguio City, 6:30 AM
San Isidro Labrador Parish, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, 6:00 AM
Our Mother of Confidence Church, University City, California, 8:00 AM
Our Lady of the Dessert, Apply Valley, California, 7:00 AM
Sta. Maria Dela Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 6:00 AM
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Regdori Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, 6:30 AM

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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Raymundo Street corner Mercedes Avenue
San Miguel, Pasig City
Tels. 747 8599 [illegible] 8609 Telefax 641-1760
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue Quezon City
Tel. 732 0399 732 1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad,
Mandaue City, Cebu
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Fed pick Bies is bright, a big-picture thinker

WASHINGTON—Susan Schmidt Bies brings a wealth of the banking expertise the Bush administration sought as it interviewed candidates for the powerful Federal Reserve Board.

But her resume is bolstered by another key credential: she's a trained economist.

The White House on Friday announced its selection of Bies, a 54-year-old executive from First Tennessee National Corp. in Memphis, for the US central bank's board.

She has a doctorate in economics and taught the subject for years at the college level. Those who know her speak highly of her intellect and her ability to look at the big picture.

"She is so smart, it's scary," said James Chessen, chief economist at the American Bankers Association lobby group. "She's very much a theoretician, but it's always directed toward what's practical and possible."

He added: "She's not a wallflower. She lets people know what is on her mind."

Bies (pronounced "buys") was originally hired by First Tennessee in 1979 as a staff economist, rising up to the corporate ladder to become treasurer, then chief financial officer and, most recently, serving as the bank's auditor and executive vice president in charge of risk management.

She has taught at Rhodes College in Memphis and Wayne State University in Detroit. She's not entirely new to the Fed system—she worked as the chief regional and banking structure economist at the Fed Bank of St. Louis from 1970-1972.

Corporate America's profits still skidding in 2nd quarter

NEW YORK—Investors hoping that the worst may be over for Corporate America in the economic downturn found little solace this week as a range of companies warned that their second-quarter results would be lower than expected.

The developing slowdown in Europe and lower-than-expected May retail sales were the factors most often cited by US firms that revised earnings and revenue projections downward this week.

Of the companies that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 index, 116, or almost a quarter, have warned of lower-than-expected earnings since Feb. 1, up from 112 in the previous three months and only 12 in the year-earlier period, according to figures from research firm Thomson Financial/First Call.

"We are building up to peak weeks, which will be at the end of June," said Chuck Hill, First Call's director of research, in reference to the so-called warnings season.

The biggest recent concerns appeared to be the deterioration in the European economy and slowing traffic through the nation's malls, Hill said, which was partly caused by rainy and cold weather in the US Midwest and Northeast.

"Based on what we were hearing about rapid deterioration in European business, we would have expected to see some of those kinds of negative pre-announcements," Hill said.

"The retail warnings are probably the most disturbing. We keep getting these little flare-ups of warnings from the consumer sector and I don't know if this is going to be something sustained or not."

There is no official start date for the quarterly corporate confessional period, which usually covers weeks either side of the end of each quarter. But for this quarter, the number of announcements is likely to increase next week and continue to the first week of July, after which earnings season officially begins.

"These warnings are part of a normal seasonal pattern and next week there will be more than this week," said Hill.

Technology companies, which have been most hard-hit by the current economic slowdown, continued to be a grim source of news, with heavyweights such as printer and computer maker Hewlett-Packard Co., computer network equipment maker 3Com Corp., and No. 2 handheld computer maker Handspring Inc. all warning of lower-than-expected results.

Hewlett-Packard on Wednesday said a global economic slowdown cast doubts on a short-term recovery in the technology sector.

Consumer product producers and restaurants also provided reasons for pessimism.

Pacific Sunwear of California Inc., a retailer that targets skateboarders and surfers, on Thursday forecast weaker earnings for the second quarter and said May same-store sales were down almost 10 percent from last year.

Restaurant chain California Pizza Kitchen Inc. on Tuesday warned that slowing sales had forced it to revise its earnings outlook downward. Athletic apparel maker Russell Corp. <RML.N> issued a similar warning on Wednesday, saying that weak demand had forced it to cut jobs and close several plants.

Reuters

US confirms deal on China WTO entry

BEIJING—A US official confirmed Saturday that an agreement had been struck with the Chinese side on the remaining issues concerning multilateral negotiations on China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

The two sides reached a consensus during discussions in Shanghai on the margins of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum ministerial meeting, an official of the US consulate in the eastern Chinese city told AFP.

The official Xinhua news agency had earlier Saturday quoted Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Shi Guangsheng as saying the two sides had reached "full consensus" on the issue.

Foreign Trade Minister Shi met US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick in Shanghai on Tuesday.

AFP

Food industry trying to cope with diseases

SINGAPORE—Rosemary Peacock stands at a grill of sizzling crocodile kebabs and buffalo sausage, and talks of rounding up camels and wild horses in the Australian outback as substitutes for beef.

She says the remote town of Tennant Creek is reopening its slaughterhouse, which has been closed for years, to make meat out of the horses that run wild in the surrounding wilderness of Australia's Northern Territory.

It's all part of the global food industry's current scramble to cope with public fears over mad cow disease and other food-related health crises, Peacock and others said at an international food trade fair that ended in Singapore Friday.

Much of the horse meat from Tennant Creek would likely go to France and Germany—where horse demand is up and beef demand is down—said Peacock, a business services official from the Northern Territory government.

Australian cattle have not been associated with mad cow disease, but Peacock says the country has not seen an expected jump in demand for its beef in Europe, where the scare has hit hardest.

"There's a bit of a psychological barrier in the European markets to eating beef, no matter where it comes from," she said.

By January this year, beef consumption in Europe had dipped to a low of 30 percent below the levels it was at before the mad cow crisis, said European Union spokesperson Johan Reyniers in Brussels.

Germany reported a 40-percent drop in beef sales in April from a year earlier.

So Peacock set up a booth at the SIAL Asia food exhibition held this week in Singapore and handed out samples of Northern Territory crocodile and other exotic meats to food industry players from around the world.

Fare such as wild horse and crocodile are among the new meats to which the global food industry—beset in recent years by scares over mad cow disease, dioxin, deadly bacteria and foot and mouth disease—has had to turn.

In Asia, demand for beef has dropped 40 percent in the past two years due to the mad cow scare, said Lawrence Koh, Asian regional manager for the Paris-based food industry body CIES.

A recent outbreak of the deadly pig-borne Nipah virus in Southeast Asia further frightened consumers in wealthy and pork-loving Singapore, where ostrich meat is rapidly becoming popular, Koh said.

AP

Internet virus attacks Bill Gates' email

SAN FRANCISCO—A computer virus that includes an attack on an email address of Bill Gates' was making the rounds Friday.

According to computer security experts at the Symantec Antivirus Research Center in Santa Monica, California, the virus forces a user's computer to send an email to gatesAmicrosoft.com. The email contains a common vulgarity.

"It's really a common virus," said Vincent Weafer, a scientist at SARC. "And it hasn't spread that fast."

Weafer said the virus has "a very low risk."

The virus was first spotted Thursday. It attacks Microsoft software used by corporations to handle email and other network tasks.

Home computers were not at risk of being directly infected by the bandit code, Weafer said.

AFP

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DESPITE TARIFF HIKE

Maynilad to continue pay cut plan

DESPITE striking a deal allowing a P5 to P7-per-cubic-meter increase in its monthly rates, Maynilad Water Services Inc. is pushing ahead with plans to cut its workers' salaries and force them to go on unpaid holidays.

In separate statements, the 2,500-strong Maynilad Supervisors Association and the Kaisahan at Kapatiran ng mga Manggagawa at Kawani sa West Zone said they would "continue to fight" efforts of Maynilad to cut their salaries by 10 percent effective next month.

The company, as part of its cost-cutting plans, is also forcing some of its workers to go on vacation leaves without pay.

Union officials said these measures violated the Labor Code.

Maynilad assistant vice president Jesus Matubis said Maynilad's employees should look at the salary cut and forced vacation leave scheme as a better alternative to a retrenchment.

Matubis said the company had to implement these measures to cut costs while awaiting the approval of a $350-million loan from its creditors.

The loan has been tied to the approval of an increase in Maynilad's water tariff, which the government has recently approved.

The union, however, expressed fear that the failure of Maynilad's major shareholders—Benpres Holdings Corp. and Suez des Lyonnaise des Eaux—to infuse fresh capital into the company showed that its financial problems would not easily end in six months.

"Why do we have to pay the price for the wrongdoings of our management? It is difficult for us…considering that this would mean foregoing our financial obligations and job opportunities," the Maynilad Supervisors Association said in a statement.

The supervisors' union insisted there were other ways that Maynilad could cut its costs without rolling back the salaries of its employees.

Maynilad earlier offered its employees a retirement package of one and half month's worth of salary for every year of service, but settled on a pay-cut and forced-leave program to avoid retrenching its workers.

"The 10 percent deduction on their salaries from the top management may not mean nothing for them, but for us, the workers, it means a lot to our day-to-day survival," the Maynilad Supervisors Union said.

The government said earlier it was willing to allow Maynilad to recover its foreign exchange losses through a P5-per-cubic-meter increase in its rate over the next 18 months.

This will represent an increase of 54 percent from the current rate of P9.27 per cubic meter for Maynilad customers. The government, however, estimates that an average household will only see a P20-increase in its monthly water bill.

Maynilad had been pressing the government to allow it to recover some P2.7 billion in losses arising from the sharp depreciation in the value of the peso against the dollar. Maynilad absorbed the bulk of the MWSS' foreign loans when it won the bidding for half of the water firm's concession area.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who also chairs the MWSS Board of Trustees, said in an interview that while they have agreed in principle on the P5-per-cubic-meter increase, the MWSS Regulatory Office is further studying its impact on consumers.

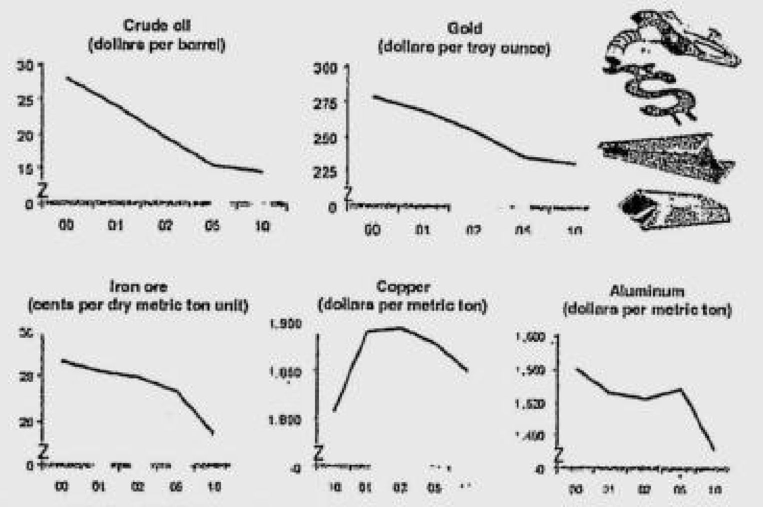
Maynilad stopped paying its concession fee of P200 million a month to the MWSS since March after the government turned down its request to have an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment scheme to recover fluctuations in the exchange rate.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected world prices of crude oil & metals

(2000 to 2010)



Source: World Bank's "2001 Global Economic Prospects"

Although crude prices have tripled since 1999, the World Bank sees real oil prices declining due to abundant low-cost global supplies, non-oil fuels and increasing competition among non-OPEC producers, as well as environmental concerns and technological advances. Aluminum and copper prices increased 30 to 40 percent since its lows in early 1999. Large supplies of gold will keep its price low. Lead prices which have fallen due to weak demand and rising stocks will likely recover in the near future.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Oil firms back ₱298-M clean air project

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL companies and transport groups have expressed concern over the deteriorating quality of Metro Manila's air, as they pledge support for the $298-million "Partnership for Clean Air" project.

Petroleum Institute of the Philippines executive director Reynaldo Marquez said during the PCA launch last week that PIP member oil companies would be actively involved in helping the PCA with its air improvement projects.

"The oil industry pledges its full support and commitment to this project," he said.

Marquez is also interim chair of the PCA.

In December last year, the PCA, then still the Coalition for Cleaner Fuel, successfully had leaded gasoline phased out from the country's market.

Since then, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said, "oil companies have been very cooperative."

Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, and Department of Trade and Industry, fuel companies will engage in awareness campaigns aimed at the transporting public regarding the fuel standards specified in the Clean Air Act.

The transporting public includes motor companies, mechanical service providers, private and commercial vehicle owners, drivers and operators, fuel distributors and companies, and industries using diesel fuel.

The campaign will also provide publicity for the ongoing research on alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas.

Transport groups, represented by Alberto Suansing of the Transport Operators for Clean Air, likewise expressed support for the PCA.

"We will comply (with Clean Air Act standards)," he said.

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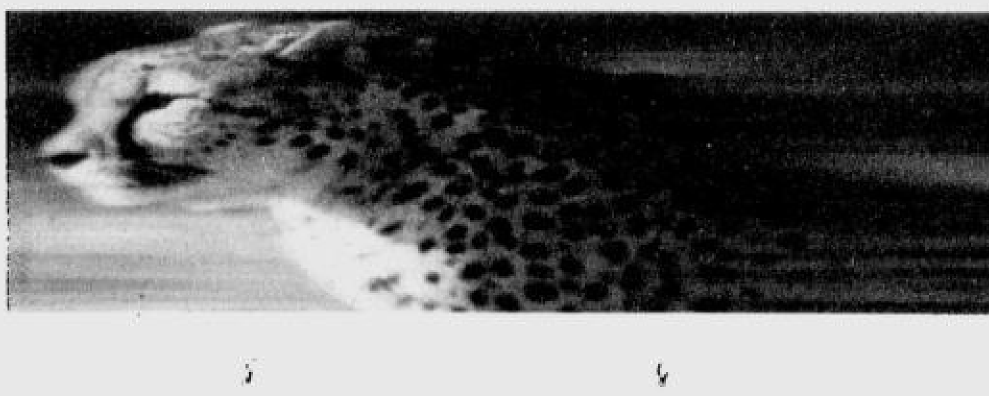

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BUSINESS*Monday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Aboitizes find unity in diversity

BY IRENE R. SINO-CRUZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

WHAT started as a trading business in the early 1900s has grown into a conglomerate with interests in shipping, power, real estate, banking, manufacturing and a number of other businesses spread across the country.

It is quite a feat for Aboitiz & Co., which at one time was on the brink of bankruptcy and whose physical assets were almost wiped out at the end of World War II.

Shortly before the war, Aboitiz & Co. owned a sugar plantation and mill, shipbuilding and repair facility, hardware, hemp processing, international and domestic trading and cold storage facilities, knitting factory, liquor business and a cattle ranch.

Although the Aboitizes started doing business in Leyte, Cebu is now home to their corporate headquarters.

The Aboitiz & Co. experience was cited in a seminar on family corporations as a good example of a well-managed family-owned business.

Many family-owned businesses in Cebu that started in the early 1900s went bankrupt or split up after the first generation.

However, the Aboitiz group of companies enters the new millennium still intact and even growing stronger.

THE FOURTH generation of Aboitiz cousins are working for the growth of businesses in banking and power. (From left), Jon Ramon M. Aboitiz, Luis M. Aboitiz Jr. and Erramon I. Aboitiz

Aboitiz Equity Ventures chief executive officer and president Jon Ramon Aboitiz now leads the fourth generation of Aboitiz cousins in steering the family's various business interests.

Jon Ramon attributes the continued success and unity of the Aboitiz clan to the high level of trust the family members have for each other.

"Nobody took advantage of anybody. Our closeness with each other created a bond from one generation to another. You cannot have a family corporation where certain members (of the family) take advantage of the others," Jon Ramon tells the INQUIRER.

The Aboitizes recognizes that their closeness was not enough for the family business to remain intact.

"We realized early that it's not an easy thing to stay together. We have to work at it," he explains.

They also hired a family corporation consultant from the United States to help them in the transition from being a traditional family-owned company to one that is professionally run.

Family council

The family holds regular meetings to discuss issues. This practice was formalized when they formed the family council.

During council meetings, the Aboitizes argue on issues and make a decision according to the wishes of the majority, explained Jon Ramon.

After a decision is made, everybody abides by it, he says.

Even the application of the company rules does not provide allowances for family members.

"Rules must be equally applied to all," he adds.

At present, he said, 15 family members are working with the company.

"All the rest are professionals. By large, we are a professional company," he adds.

Another striking feature of the Aboitiz group is the way the transition from one generation to the next is handled.

Unlike other family-owned companies where the patriarch finds it hard to hand over the reins to the next generation, the Aboitiz group prides itself with being able to implement a smooth transition of management.

According to Jon Ramon, his father came out with the rule of requiring a family member who reaches the age of 60 to step away from the operations of the company.

While the senior family members are no longer involved in the day-to-day operations, he says that they assume the role of advisers, providing guidance to the younger family members.

Jon Ramon also notes that one does not hold a position in the company just because he belongs to the Aboitiz clan. They have to prove their worth.

The Aboitiz children usually grow up in the business, working with the company during school breaks to learn all facets of the business.

Beginnings

Aboitiz & Co. traces its beginnings to Spaniard Paulino Aboitiz who, after his marriage to Emilia Yrastoza, started trading in abaca fiber or hemp.

Aside from trading in hemp, Paulino operated a general merchandise business with Angel Moraza, who was married to Emilia's younger sister, Guadalupe.

Together with his brother-in-law, Angel, who was based in Baybay, Paulino also operated a general merchandise store.

At the turn of the century, Paulino, Emilia and their 10 children went to Cebu when the Spanish government collapsed.

Paulino entered into a partnership with abaca dealer Jose Muertegui, who was based in Palompon, naming their business Muertegui y Aboitiz.

When the volume of business increased, the partnership bought

ABOITIZES/ C2

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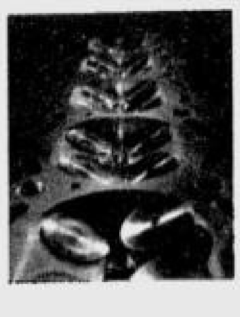

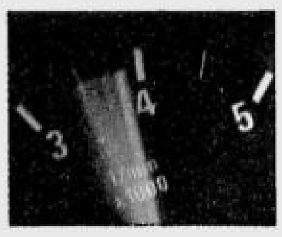

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Impact of computerization on governance, people and processes

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Helen P. Macasaet

THIS topic on the impact of computerization on governance, people and processes should highlight the relevance of how critical change management is, particularly in Philippine setting or for that matter in any country.

I will focus on major risk areas that an organization deals with in IT projects. The context of my presentation, therefore, is when a corporation undertakes the use of technology for the organization to achieve change in efficiency, productivity, profitability, effectiveness, competitiveness, etc.

The challenge is how it would manage successful IT systems implementation.

Without integrated and multiple change management methods to address governance, people and processes, IT systems cannot be implemented successfully. There are major risks or obstacles that organizations deal with in IT project implementations. I will discuss some major ones:

- Failure to build or acquire the right systems.
- Disjoint management of business process changes, people skill changes, IT systems changes.
- Insensitivity to formal or informal culture.
- Lack of committed executive leadership from CEOs to managers.

Risk 1. Failure to build or acquire the right systems.

This is the most expensive failure in organizational change.

Don't be surprised that many organizations have acquired software packages for the simple reason that they realize the need for computerization but did not take steps to do the requisite processes for needs analysis or whether such softwares fit into their functional processes.

It can therefore implement perfectly in their organization with all its new business processes and just a little work-around in their procedures. This still happens today not only in small and medium enterprises, but even in large corporations.

Other companies, on the other hand, go for building their own software rather than settle for the off-the-shelf package option. But many of them have failed to understand the potentials of technology because they think of it in terms of solving problems they have today. In their minds typically is to automate what exist rather than replacing them with new and fundamentally better ways.

But how does one define the right systems? And decide whether to build or to buy? Internal resources may have the competencies to know these but in most occasions, external assistance (e.g. consultants) is brought in. The right IT systems must be driven by:

- The right business or corporate vision: application architects work toward the business vision that most always does not exist yet. This vision must be exciting. It should inspire the organization in bringing about change.
- The application architect works closely with the CEO and its executives. He or she has to work with existing assets, capabilities and problems that always influence the future design of new operational systems.

These are immense pressures to the organization.

Risk 2. Disjoint management of business process changes, people skill changes and IT system changes.

A synchronized change in processes, technology and people must be jointly managed and implemented to avoid problems. The most valuable organizational change is cross functional. The social system or people change is cross functional (e.g. sales and marketing, accounting, warehouse, IT) and must be coordinated.

Process changes should not be developed in isolation but must be participated in by cross-functional teams in order to plan the design of new computer systems or mapping out a functional fit with off-the-shelf software packages.

When organizational changes or business process changes and IT system changes are managed independently from one another, they could bring disastrous results. New business procedures work badly or to the extent that business operations fail because of inadequate IT systems.

For IT people, it is most often easy to build exciting, state-of-the-art computer systems only to find that the business users are glued to their old, inefficient practices. They don't buy in to the new approach, which leads me to the next major risk area.

The change in the organization, its people and culture, the training and skill building and the building or customization of software systems must be managed jointly and synchronized in order to implement the new way of working efficiently.

Risk 3. Insensitive to formal or informal culture.

New computer systems can be sabotaged by end users who do not understand the reasons for the change. Or users get very excited by the new business vision but become very frustrated because obsolete computer systems could not cope with the change.

Whichever situation can lead to cynical views and dying enthusiasm. The organizational processes, people, IT aspects of change must be managed in an integrated fashion.

Corporate executives are strongly concerned with change but do not focus on the cultural issues of change. As a result, the changes they plan do not happen. The management of change is the management of cultural transformation.

And this is why governance becomes the

IMPACT/ C6

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Aboitizes find . . .

(From page C1)

MORAZA

the ship Picket in 1907 to transport their abaca.

At the time, combining abaca and shipping interests was common.

The family business grew under the management of the second son, 22-year-old Ramon who assumed his father's position as a partner in the firm.

Ramon and elder brother Guillermo also formed a partnership, G. y R. Aboitiz that sold general merchandise in areas not covered by Muertegui y Aboitiz.

In 1916, the Muertegui y Aboitiz partnership was dissolved after the Aboitizes paid P95,000 for Muertegui's share.

New partnership

The family formed a new partnership called Viude e Hijos de P. Aboitiz. It ventured into passenger shipping in 1918 when Ramon bought the steam launch Tubig from Smith, Bell and Co.

Ramon filed a petition before the Commission on Public Utilities for a license to operate the route between the Cebu and Leyte ports of Baybay, Inopacan, Hilongos, Bato and Hindang.

In May 1919, Ramon, his wife Dolores and son Eduardo left for Spain after he sold his shares to his brothers, Guillermo and Vidal.

With the success of the family business, Ramon thought that his mother and siblings can live comfortably when he left for Spain.

Guillermo and Portuguese Arnaldo F. Silva formed a corporation called Aboitiz y Compania Incorporada and capitalized at P1.25 million and P500,000 paid-up capital.

The Bureau of Commerce and Industry approved the corporation papers on Feb. 4, 1920.

The Aboitiz cousins, Manuel Moraza and Joaquin Yrastoza, joined the corporation after they bought 300 and 50 shares, respectively. Aboitiz brothers Paulino and Luis each owned 100 shares.

Trouble

A few months later, the business was in trouble and the corporation, deep in debt, was on the brink of bankruptcy.

Responding to the family's call for help, Ramon returned to Cebu in September 1920, 14 months after he left.

He learned that the company owed P2 million to the bank and to others.

He wrote to Silva, the company president and general manager: "The biggest fortune that I have is my word and my reputation. Money can be lost and can be recovered, but once reputation is lost and one's word is worthless, one is surely finished."

Against the advice of many, he refused to declare bankruptcy. Instead, he negotiated with Philippine National Bank (PNB) Cebu manager Jose Martinez for the restructuring of the P800,000 loan.

He also borrowed from businessman Joaquin Castro and Gotiaco Hermanos.

At the same time, he convinced Macleod and Smith Bell to advance funds to the company in exchange for a first choice of any abaca shipment.

Twenty years later, Ramon was able to pay off the loan.

Business was booming as demand for hemp and copra grew steadily.

War period

When World War II broke out, Japan invaded Cebu on April 10, 1942. The Aboitizes went about doing the business in spite of the difficult circumstances.

The war struck its hardest blow shortly before it ended when bombing by both sides destroyed their knitting factory in Manila, the power plants in Mindanao, a portion of their shipyard on Mactan Island, hardware store and ice plant in mainland Cebu.

The business empire that Ramon built with the help of his brothers and cousins survived the devastation of the war due to a decision to diversify.

Two businesses, the knitting factory and liquor operation, continued to earn an income throughout the war years.

Despite the destruction of many company assets, Ramon remained unfazed. He, his brother Vidal and cousins went on to rebuild their various enterprises with some of the company assets that survived.

US Navy contract

The company's Cebu Shipyard and Engineering Works entered into a contract with the US Navy for the exclusive use of the area for two years.

The post-war years saw the family forming another shipping company, started manufacturing oxygen, reviving operations of its power firm Cotabato Light and Power Co. and bought the franchise of Davao Light and Power Co.

The company also converted its knitting factory into one that makes cardboard boxes and tape.

Aboitiz continued exporting hemp and copra. The acquisition of a coconut plantation on the island of Basilan also led to the company's venture into the logging business.

However, the company decided to sell its logging business in 1959 since it was not profitable and timber prices were still low. Prices soared shortly after reaching a peak of P398 in 1970 when log and lumber exports became one of the countries top exports.

At the time the company decided to dispose of its logging business, it also went into the flour milling business setting it up in Mactan.

It transferred its milling operations to Mindanao when government established a policy of dispersal and assigned to the company the Southern Philippine area.

Success factors

The growth of Aboitiz and Co. from a trading firm into a conglomerate can be attributed to the astuteness and keen sense of timing.

Through the years, the company has the knack of seeing possibilities in businesses and selling these off at the right time.

While Ramon took some risks, he did so after carefully studying the situation.

When he acquired Cebu Ice & Cold Stores Corp. in February of 1926, the company invested a lot, buying new equipment. The new acquisition provided cold storage and sold ice, distilled water and refrigerated fruits and meats.

After upgrading the equipment, Ramon learned that electric refrigerators were being introduced to the Philippines.

ORTIZ

He decided to continue operations of the ice plant when after a market study, he learned that only 20 percent of his market can afford to buy refrigerators.

Ramon's business acumen has enabled the company to survive the challenges.

His timing was almost perfect, acquiring a business at its peak or with potential and selling it when business is bad and still earn profits for the company.

Ramon's sons and nephews were able to steer the business to continued growth

Changing of guards

Management of the company was first handed to Ramon's son, Eduardo, and then to Ramon's brother, Luis, before Eduardo's son, Jon Ramon, took over.

The changing of the guards brought many changes. Aboitiz & Co. went public in 1994 through Aboitiz Equity Ventures, a holding management company for businesses in power distribution, financial and insurance services, food and industrial production.

The new management has also made use of information technology by participating in Bayantrade, a procurement exchange company, through AEV.

Bayantrade is a partnership with Ayala Corp., Benpres Corp., JG Summit, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and United Laboratories.

Another strategy is the use of IT to increase productivity of company employees.

"Every company has to have an Internet strategy because future business is completely intertwined into the Internet and e-commerce," notes Jon Ramon.

Aboitiz & Co. is also into industrial and commercial real estate development (through Aboitizland), banking (Union Bank and City Savings Bank), power distribution and generation, freight forwarding and food-related business (Pilmico Foods Corp.).

According to Jon Ramon, the company's main thrust is to work for the growth of AEV businesses especially banking and power.

He has high hopes for the company as he believes that the family members will continue to work together despite the diversity.

"You have to work at it to ensure you have the harmony to move forward," he said.

Exec says stop and listen first, then perform

By Abigail L. Ho

MANAGEMENT
STYLES

SHOOT first and ask questions later.

He did not know how to listen to people, and felt that he had to solve all of the company's problems if others are not up to the task.

That was almost 10 years ago when John Wood, chairman and CEO of supplier enablement solutions provider Enterworks Inc., started managing systems integrator Telos Corp.

"There were actually a couple of reasons for that. First, when I entered Telos, it was at a turnaround, so a lot of decisions had to be made quickly. Then, I was also pretty young then, and I didn't realize the value of listening. As a young person, I didn't have much management skill," this avid outdoorsman said.

But he is on the opposite side of the pole now. If he never listened then, he is a ready listener now.

"Now, I think I know better. I listen to what my people have to say. I may talk over them sometimes, but at the end of the day, I do listen. That helps me make better, more informed decisions," he said.

And he does listen. His people do listen to him, too. In fact, they listened to each other so much that Enterworks' solutions have received widespread industry acclaim, including Industry Week's prestigious Technology of the Year Award in 1999 and Computerworld/Smithsonian medals in years 1999 and 2000.

He now also believes that one man cannot solve all the world's problems.

"I really try and figure out a way to empower my people and make sure they can accomplish their tasks (by themselves). If they cannot do it, I give them the training so they can do it, or I replace them," he related.

Enterworks executive vice president for operations Jonathan Church said Wood is a "very dynamic visionary."

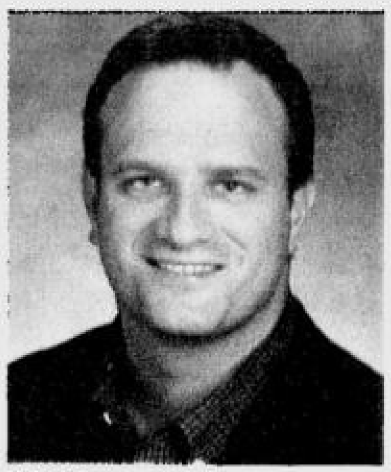
"But I need them to implement my visions for me. Like Jon said, I'm just a visionary. But I'm good at reminding them of doing their jobs," Wood said with a laugh.

Work, though, is not all that is on this Georgetown University graduate's mind. He is also a board member for the National Forest Foundation in the United States.

"I'm involved with the preservation of national parks in the US where there are around 141 million acres of land. I'm an avid outdoorsman so I'm involved with this trust that's involved with overseeing that. There are probably 900 million people who come to visit those forests every year. Part of what I do is make people aware of how important it is to preserve them," he said.

Wood said he goes out once or twice a week, quite often for someone with his tight schedule, "but that's not as often as I like, although I do make time for it."

EXEC/ C6



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ZERO LEVEL IN 10 YEARS

Group launches numbers game vs poverty

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

YOU'VE probably heard of the 13-0 PR puff of the People Power Coalition and the 0-13 counter propaganda of the Puwersa ng Masa and how the Filipinos were deeply polarized by these campaign slogans.

Well, former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and the Institute for Solidarity in Asia are also launching their own numbers crusade dubbed 0-10 or zero poverty in 10 years. And this time, all Filipinos should vote that Estanislao and the ISA achieve their noble, albeit quixotic, goal.

In wiping out poverty that afflicts more than five out of 10 Filipinos in a decade, Estanislao says that society must realize that we should first listen to them before we help them change the way they work and live, think and act.

Estanislao says ISA's main strategy in achieving 0-10 was to ensure that government officials adhere to good governance as summed up in the Fiesta principles—fairness, integrity, effectiveness, solidarity, transparency and accountability.

Among the concrete measures being eyed by ISA is the adoption of a code of conduct for different branches of government which would lay down the ideals practice of a profession in specific and identifiable terms.

"This is probably one of the most urgent and most immediate demands of governance and it needs to be promoted, coordinated and sustained from the highest level up to the Office of the President," he says.

Reforms

The program will run parallel with the Institute of Corporate Directors, which is implementing similar reforms toward better governance in the corporate sector. Estanislao is a moving force behind both endeavors.

"We have been set back because public authority had been used not for public gain and benefit, particularly for the welfare of the poor, but for private gain and for the benefit of a few individual bank accounts," Estanislao explains

To move ahead, Estanislao says the country should institute national governance reforms to ensure that all authority from the people must be exercised only for the people, for their welfare and development.

"We should be free to contribute but freedom is restrained if the people cannot meet the basic needs to live—like adequate food, decent housing, basic education, basic healthcare and sense of security under the law," Estanislao adds.

For these national governance reforms to take root, Estanislao stresses that it is critical that all sectors of society to get involved to reach the 0-10 goal. Estanislao is keen on harnessing the spirit of solidarity evidenced in People Power to achieve ISA's goals through dutiful adherence to core principles of governance.

Estanislao says: "The dynamic forces behind Edsa II should continue to insure that the basic needs of people are met; that both rich and poor practice their civic virtues; that government officials be re-oriented and be given support mechanisms; that institutions should be strengthened through more serious program for transparency and integrity."

3-pronged approach

Since no single focused agenda can put an end to the country's string of crises, Estanislao says ISA would take a three-pronged approach in pursuing its goals—for infrastructure (education for responsible citizenship and basic needs strategy); main structure (strengthening public institutions and streamlining national government); and superstructure (local government support program and anti-corruption program).

ISA will hold two major conferences each year to enable the Philippines to relate its account on governance reforms. In these gatherings, Estanislao hopes that participants learn from the mistakes and accomplishments of local and foreign institutions and civic groups.

ISA is a project of the non-profit Foundation for Community Building in the Asia-Pacific, which is aimed at initiating the formulation and implementation of national governance reforms.

ESTANISLAO leads laudable effort

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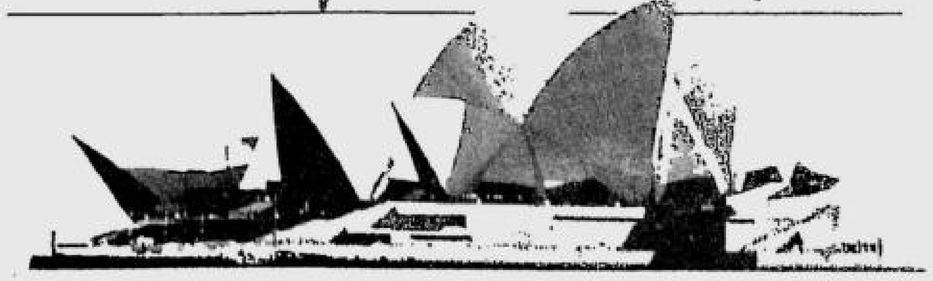


With 240 days of sunshine and blue skies each year, Sydney Harbour provides a wonderful playground and a spectacular backdrop to the 'world's favourite city'. Its people are friendly and easygoing. It is a place where activity never stops, and where entertainment and culture abound.

Start at The Rocks...

The Rocks, Australia's historical showplace, is a good place to start to discover the city. Take a stroll through the colourful promenades, the narrow cobblestone lanes and beautifully restored sandstone buildings. Every Saturday and Sunday **The Rocks Markets** are open, featuring some 150 stalls selling quirky and quality hand-made arts and crafts.

'Conquer' Australia's most famous Icon, Sydney Harbour Bridge with a breathtaking **BridgeClimb** Tour! Twelve-to-90-year olds have climbed the magical arch and can attest that the stunning 360 degree view of Sydney.

Darling Harbour

Exciting Darling Harbour is an easy walk from the city. Visitors and locals alike gather to enjoy open air concerts, free entertainment, shops and restaurants. Popular attractions such as the **Sydney Aquarium, IMAX Theatre,** or **Jetboat Rides**, are also located at Darling Harbour. Or check out the latest waterfront precincts of **Cockle Bay Wharf** and **King Street Wharf** and you will be treated to a colourful fusion of dining, entertainment, art and music.

City Shopping

The heart of the city is a mecca for shoppers. In a radius of two kilometres you will find everything imaginable, from the magnificently restored **Queen Victoria Building** with its selection of branded names such as Chanel, Ferragamo, Ken Done etc, the **Strand Arcade** housing unique speciality and designer shops, to **Pitt Street Mall** with its ultra-modern seven storey Skygardens complex and **Centrepoint**, at the base of the AMP Tower, with its wide range of fashion and jewellery shops.

Paddington runs along Oxford Street and is renowned for its many art galleries, cafes, pubs and restaurants as well as cutting-edge designer boutiques. On Saturdays, the Paddington Market comes to life with 200 stalls set up bazaar style, selling a variety of hand-made jewellery, crafts and antiques.

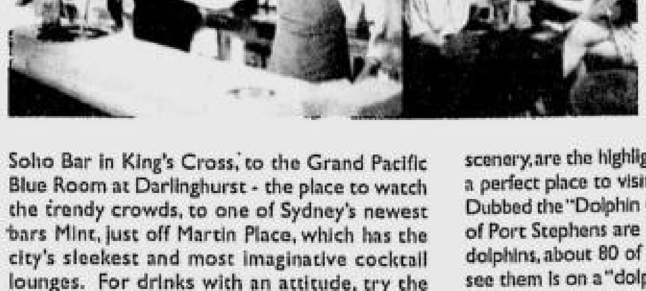
Dining in Style

Sydney is one of the world's most delectable dining capitals, filled with restaurants, cafes and bistros to satisfy every taste. You can expect to find bohemian cafés such as Cafe Sydney (Customs House) with its excellent views of the Harbour, classy waterfront restaurants, such as the popular Nick's Seafood Restaurant (Cockle Bay/King Street Wharf), exclusive fine restaurants such as Tetsuya or Rockpool, to the savoury treats available all over Chinatown in the heart of the city!

Entertainment and Nightlife

Sydney's entertainment and nightlife scene has something to offer everyone. In addition to the **Sydney Opera House**, the city boasts several theatres, many of them staging shows that play simultaneously in London and Broadway. Check out the theatre calendar for the latest: **www.ticketek.com.au.**

Pubs and bars are a big part of Sydney's social scene. From the art dámcor interiors of the Soho Bar in King's Cross, to the Grand Pacific Blue Room at Darlinghurst - the place to watch the trendy crowds, to one of Sydney's newest bars Mint, just off Martin Place, which has the city's sleekest and most imaginative cocktail lounges. For drinks with an attitude, try the favourite watering hole in Sydney at the moment, The Establishment - a grand, groovy, hip and happening place.



Sydney and Wine Country

Less than two hours by road from Sydney is Hunter Valley Wine Country, as well known for world class cuisine and hospitality as for its world famous wines. With the changing of seasons, the atmo-sphere in Wine Country is even more enchanting.

For wine amateurs, a variety of other activities such as horse – riding, cycling golfing are also available. The infections "Passion" shared by the winemakers, chefs and hosts of Wine Country results in giving visitors a second to none experience in Australian wine, food and country lifestyle experience.

Where Dolphins Talk Back

It is difficult to imagine a more attractive holiday destination than Port Stephens, less than an hour's drive from the Hunter Valley. Here, the crystal clear, unpolluted waterways, clean golden beaches, magnificent harbour and spectacular scenery, are the highlights that make Port Stephens a perfect place to visit at any time of the year.

Dubbed the "Dolphin Capital of Australia" the stars of Port Stephens are undoubtedly the bottlenose dolphins, about 80 of them in all. The best way to see them is on a "dolphin watch" cruise boats, the most wonderful thing is that the dolphins love to make contact with the boats and delight in swimming alongside and riding the bow wave.

Blue all over

The Blue Mountains is a captivating world of National Parks and spectacular scenery. Today, the Blue Mountains has been awarded the prestigious "World Heritage Listing" status. Magnificent valleys and waterfalls can be seen from various lookouts in the Park at the Mountains. A must-see is the famous rock outcrop known as The Three Sisters at Echo Point. The Scenic Railway Ride down the Jamison Valley (the steepest incline railway in the world) along with the Skyway Cable Ride promises to thrill all who dare to try!

For more information on Sydney New South Wales, log on to website www.sydney.com.sg

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Leave recruitment of top talent to experts

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE OF the biggest challenges facing corporations these days is finding the best people for high-level positions. There may be more people in the workplace, but the fact is that there is a shrinking pool of talent that can cope well with the demands of today's competitive world.

This is a significant challenge as corporations can grow only if they have the right people to do the job.

As David Packard of Hewlett-Packard said: "Growth in revenue cannot exceed growth in people capable of sustaining and creating that growth."

Companies around the world have changed the way they attract and retain the best talent. One of these is in investing in new recruiting strategies such as getting a professional executive search company or "headhunters".

The search company is let loose and they zero in on the best candidate for a particular position using their proprietary filtering methods.

Glendon Rowell, president of Boyden global executive search in the Philippines tells the INQUIRER that getting the right person the first time is important as failure to do so will mean significant losses to the company.

"First of all, the company will have to pay a couple of months salary especially if they have a contract, not to mention the damage that the person did to the organization and the systems. I believe in the long run that it is cheaper to hire experts even if we do not come cheap," Rowell says.

Boyden, the oldest firm in the headhunting business, defines executive search as the professional method of finding new executives for client corporations.

The process involves the creation of a well-defined position description and candidate qualifications, and then combing the executive environment to find the individuals qualified to do the defined job.

Executive search companies such as Boyden are usually asked to fill up at least the top three positions of a company (mostly multinationals), and heads of discipline such as head of marketing, finance and audit.

Rowell explains that they are usually limited to these positions because these are the most difficult positions to fill, and it is not cost effective to hire a professional recruitment firm for middle or low. rank positions.

Boyden, for instance, charges a minimum fee of P450,000. In other cases, Boyden charges a fee equivalent to one-third of the first year's cash compensation of the successful candidate. At least one-third of that fee is paid on the day the company engages Boyden's services.

"We emphasize the fact that we provide value for that money that they give us. We spend a lot of time with our candidates and we take into account the unique characteristics of the Filipino business community," Rowell adds.

Boyden also provides clients with a guarantee by which they can get a replacement candidate if the original person does not perform as expected.

"We are proud to say that we have had only one return in the almost three years we have been here," Rowell says.

Rowell attributes the success rate to Boyden's serious attempt to understand the inner workings of the Filipino business community. Boyden also uses a staff of mixed nationality professionals.

"Boyden believes, and its placements have proven again and again, that the search for senior level executives must be conducted by a team of Filipinos and non-Filipinos. And, to be completely effective, the mixed team should participate in the entire search process. The team gets to know the client's philosophy and culture, and then does the screening of the candidates," Rowell says.

Rowell stresses that the qualified personnel are not necessarily limited to the richest and the best educated. They may even be the wrong people for the job.

"For a number of people the educational opportunities, often supplemented by multinational companies' training, provided only a glossy façade. These theoretical and pragmatic experiences did not in fact create competent managers or inspirational leaders," Rowell adds.

Boyden also watches out for prospective candidates who hold different jobs to make it appear that they are good performers.

"While young managers may think it is impressive to present themselves as multifaceted, this practice seems to reveal that a position with one company does not keep them challenged and busy," he says.

Boyden also considers the fact that many corporations in the Philippines are run by families and some of the managers' capabilities may be out of proportion to the actual capabilities.

"These are the kinds of background to which Boyden is alert, and which it can streen effectively for its clients," Rowell says.

ROWELL says it is chea per in the long run to hire a professional to search for executives.

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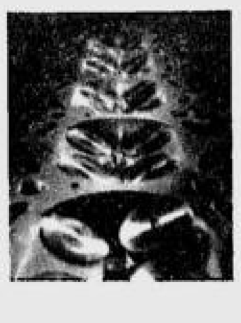

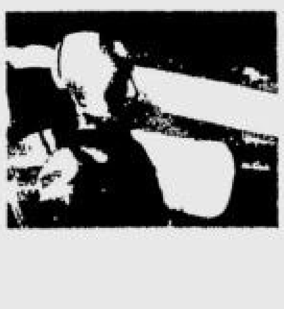

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Subic combines business with entertainment

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER the Americans left the Subic Naval Base in 1991, it became a virtual ghost town. A decade later, the former military base is now home to the country's premier freeport, combining investment opportunities with a pristine environment.

Ocean Adventure

Located within the Kamayan wharf, one of the freeport's protected areas, this one-of-a-kind theme park provides interaction between man and nature. Main attractions include dolphins, sea lions, and false killer whales that the audience can feed and pet.

Aquariums also showcase Philippine fishes and reefs because most people haven't seen their own reefs and fish, Subic Bay Marine Exploratiorium Inc. CEO Tim Desmond said.

Biopark

Another theme park, this time featuring land-based animals, is already on the drawing board. Aside from featuring freely roaming animals from tropical rainforests around the world, educational and interactive programs will also be introduced in the park.

Also in the master plan are the establishment of resorts, hotels, recreation services and shopping areas in the park to stimulate business and tourism opportunities as well as provide employment for people living in the freeport's neighboring communities.

Other fun stuff

For the more adventurous, Subic also offers a wide range of recreational activities. Among these is the Apaliin Trail hike, a three-kilometer, two-hour trek into the depths of the jungle, walking through dense bamboo and towering redwood trees.

There is also the Slide Adventure at the Pamulaklakin Aeta Village where one can scale giant trees and rappel from tree to tree, in full safety gear and with reliable instructions, of course.

The Magellan's Landing restaurant also offers kayaking adventure trips. And for those dissatisfied with just sitting on a kayak and scaling treacherous waters, one can opt for a dive with professional divers at the Scuba Shack. Sunken World War II battleships and bombers lay at the bottom of the Subic Bay waiting to be explored by adventure seekers.

Landfill project

To keep its environment conducive to all the nature treats it has to offer, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is now engaged in installing state-of-the-art equipment in its existing sanitary landfill.

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority continues to develop the former naval base by devoting its 181-hectare area to commerce and tourism.

The Japanese government is funding this P80-million project involving the improvement and upgrading of the existing sanitary landfill project to ensure ecological balance and protection by preventing all forms of environmental contamination through modern disposal of waste materials, SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said.

He added that this will enhance Subic's competitiveness compared to other economic zones.

Subic Bay Int'l Airport

To make it at par with the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Subic Bay International Airport is now undergoing a facelift. The runway is being re-paved and rehabilitated because some parts of it have already been worn out by commercial and cargo airplanes.

It is also improving its lighting system to make landing safer, especially during bad weather. This project is under a P50-million funding from Federal Express, the world's leading air transport company, which has its Asian hub in Subic.

Rizal-Argonaut Highway

This road expansion project is the first leg of the Subic-Clark Toll Road project which aims to link the Subic Bay Freeport to the Clark Special Economic Zone.

This P533-million project involves the expansion of the Rizal/Argonaut highway into a four-lane road from its present two-lane status. A new extension road approaching the Tipo Expressway will also be constructed to make access to Subic from Metro Manila easier.

Subic-Clark toll road

Forming the first half of the Rainbow Highway project which will cover Subic, Clark, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija, the Subic-Clark Toll Road project is a vital component of the Central Luzon Development Plan sponsored by Payumo and President Macapagal-Arroyo. This is also part of the grand scheme called the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (Scad).

Subic-Clark Alliance for Development

Although armed with port facilities, a natural deep harbor and an intact ecosystem, Subic has limited flatland for infrastructure development. Clark, on the other hand, has what Subic does not have: vast flatlands for industries plus an airport with two parallel runways capable of handling 15 to 20 million passengers a year, Payumo said.

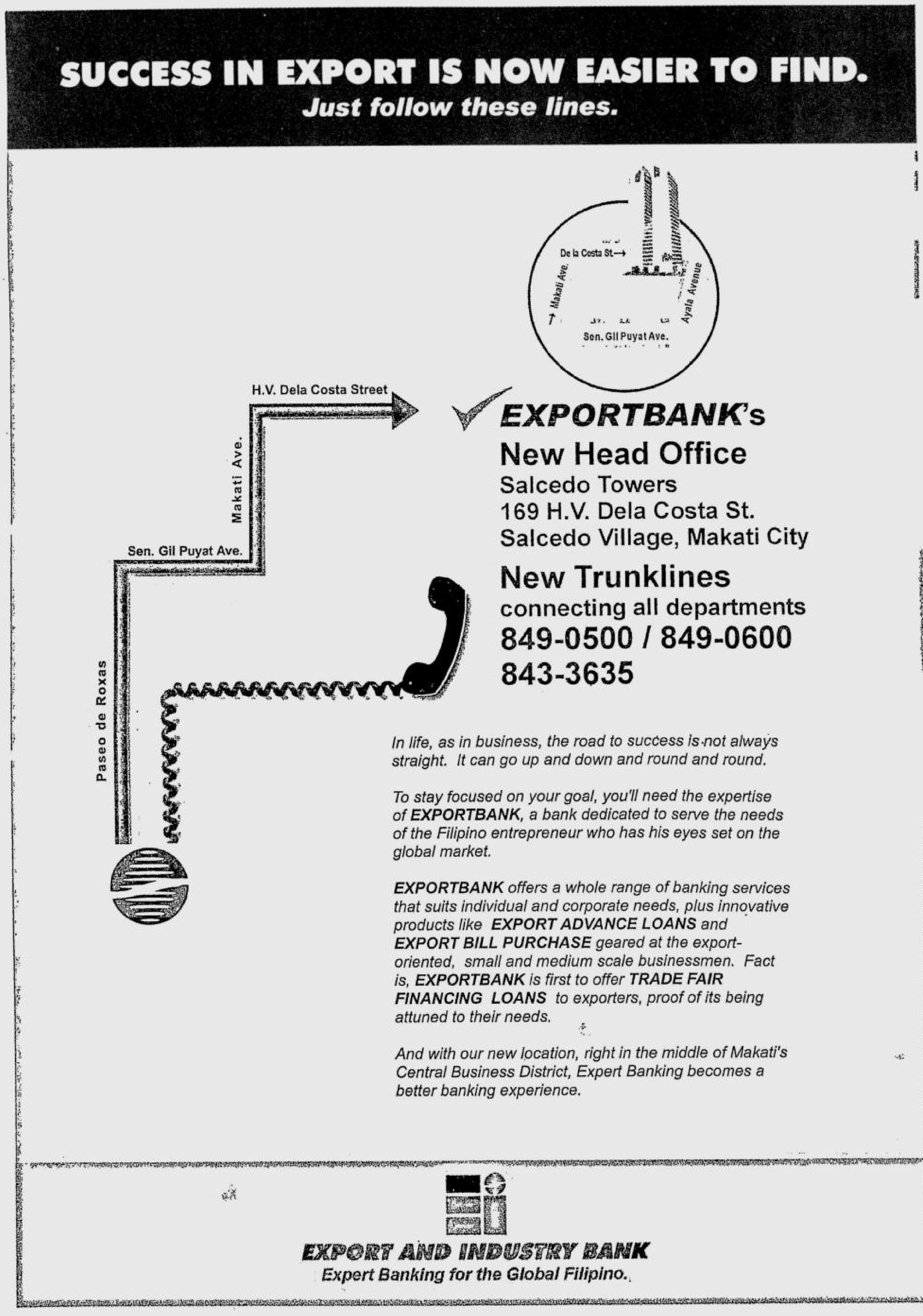
He also explained that creating a synergy between the two economic zones is only rational for the two strategic assets to reach their full growth potentials.

Link these assets together via the toll road project and we have the most effective logistics and transportation network that would not only help decongest Metro Manila, but in the long run, will evolve into a global intermodal transpark, he added.

He also said that the Subic-Clark corridor will possibly be patterned after the Alliance Center, a global intermodal transpark in Fort Worth, Texas, and will be thoughtfully master-planned, unlike Metro Manila and Calabarzon which were developed in piece-meal fashion.

Now, Subic is far from being a ghost town. What the Americans left behind—$8 billion worth of infrastructure in Subic, the Filipinos enhanced and used to their advantage.

With the Scad now in the works, the country is expected to rise from the slums it is now in and be a foremost economic hub in Asia.



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Impact . . .

(From page C2)

most critical factor for successful IT implementation. Ineffective governance is the last but not the least major risk area.

Risk 4. Lack of committed executive leadership from CEOs to managers

If governance is about the use of authority for broader common good or getting managers to go beyond self interests for the benefit of the entire corporation, organizational change or cultural transformation then cannot be accomplished from the bottom up.

Change management requirements can only come from a level of management higher than those affected. Cross-functional change has to come from the CEO.

It is dealing with human concerns and cultural resistance that the CEO faces everyday in the project. People have to cope with negative feelings caused by fear, anxiety or resentment at a loss of probably a role they have been comfortable with.

Throughout the project, the CEO provides that constancy of vision and leadership—committed, always getting the change process on track when things go wrong, and consistently influencing others in the organization. The CEO must be passionately determined to succeed.

(This article reflects the author's personal views, which she presented as one of the speakers at the MAP Forum on "Change Management in Philippine Setting" on 31 May 2001. Ms Macasaet is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and resident of Pentathlon IT Asia Inc. The MAP cretariat and the author may be ached vi mapsec@globe.com.ph)

Money . . .

(From page C8)

deregulation of exchange controls are regarded as the chief causes of the rapid expansion o money laundering over the past decade. Togethe they have opened up many more channels fo laundering dirty oney and provided more opportunities to hi its origi

Solutions: UN icials [illegible] the most important single measu n eliminating money laundering is the ending of bank secrecy.

The Russian Connection: Russia is by far the biggest country to appear on the FATF's black list o offending nations. More than $25 billion from criminal activities or tax evasion are believed to have bee sent abroad last year.

The problem is derived, to some extent, from th particularly unregulated circumstances by whic large sectors of the Soviet command economy ar transferred to private hands, but Russia's position a a transit route for Afghan heroin into Europe has aggravated the situation.

AFP

Exec says . . .

(From page C3)

His Jesuit education—having gone to a Jesu military high school and a Jesuit college—taugh him the importance of educating the whole pe son.

"So I do have to make time for that (going out That's a good thing to do, whether you're in scho or in business," he said.

His job as Enterworks head honcho takes him all over the world all the time, and does not leave muc room for anything else.

"My wife doesn't like it. She wants me to sta home," he said with a laugh.

But he does spend time with his family when h is home at their Virginia farm. He has a 2-year-old boy who needs a role model, after all.

Aside from his family, he also likes spending tim tending to his other love—the garden.

"I love gardening. I also love dogs and horses. I also like playing golf because it helps you learn a lot about yourself and about other people," he said.

Singing is another passion of his.

"I miss singing in a band. I haven't sung in a band for around six years now," he said.

Since he cannot sing in a band because of his tight schedule, he sings to his employees instead.

If the poor counts, then count often

By Dennis M. Arroyo

THE STANDARD way to measure poverty is to look at the income. The government runs an income survey and also sets a poverty line. The households that fall below the minimum are considered poor.

Count the number of poor families and divide that by the total to get poverty incidence, or the percentage of the population that is poor.

Not quite simple

It sounds simple but it isn't. Take for example the income survey. It's not just a matter of asking, "How much do you earn every month?" That would work in the formal office economy, where salaries are set and stable. In contrast, farm families have varying incomes and get them from many sources. The same holds for urban families in the informal economy.

That's why the income surveys are very detailed and take at least an hour for each interview. Long surveys eat up a lot of labor, so they are very expensive. Because they are costly, the government can't run an income survey very often.

It takes a lot of money to monitor poverty, so it can't be tracked very often. In the last century, the poverty readings were done only once every three years.

That's a pity, because the government of a poor country should really track poverty often to check on progress. President Macapagal-Arroyo has also prioritized poverty reduction, so the state should monitor poverty rapidly.

The fastest method in the world

Fortunately, there are other faster means. I have in mind the self-rating system I studied in Social Weather Stations.

In the SWS system, the respondent is presented a card with the word "*Mahirap* (poor)" on one half and the words "*Hindi mahirap* (not poor)" on the other. The interviewer asks the respondent where on the card his/her family belongs. The method gets a reading of how many respondents rate themselves as poor.

Then comes a follow-up question. Those who consider themselves poor are asked: "What is the minimum monthly amount needed for expenses for your family to be not poor?"

On the other hand, those who do not think of themselves as poor are asked a slightly different question: "What is the minimum monthly amount needed by family of the same size, but which is poor, so that they will not be poor any more?"

These questions yield a distribution of poverty lines. SWS then gets the median of the distribution.

Does self-rating yield enough data? Yes. For example, between 1983 to 1999, there were only five readings of official poverty: in 1985, 1988, 1991, 1994, and 1997. Contrast that with 46 readings of self-rated poverty.

Graphing it, one could see how poverty ebbed and flowed over time. In fact, the SWS system is the fastest poverty tracking method in the world.

Not just income poverty

Self-rating also gives a more complete picture of poverty. To be poor not only means having poor income. It also means living in a poor place. You may be middle class in your income but live in a barrio with little public services like piped water, electricity and access to nearby clinics.

Hence, it's no surprise that the readings of self-rated poverty are greater than those of official income poverty. For example, in 1994, self-rated poverty varied from 58 percent to 70 percent. The official count was only 36 percent.

In 1997, perceived poverty ranged from 57 percent to 63 percent. The official poverty incidence then was only 32 percent.

From my own research, I saw how self-rated poverty coincides with the patterns of "official" poverty.

Self-rated poverty is lowest in Metro Manila and often greatest in Mindanao. It is lower in the urban areas than in the rural. Those who own more appliances display less self-rated poverty. Of course, unemployment and underemployment are associated with greater self-rated poverty.

A striking finding is that self-rated poverty is strongly correlated with inflation.

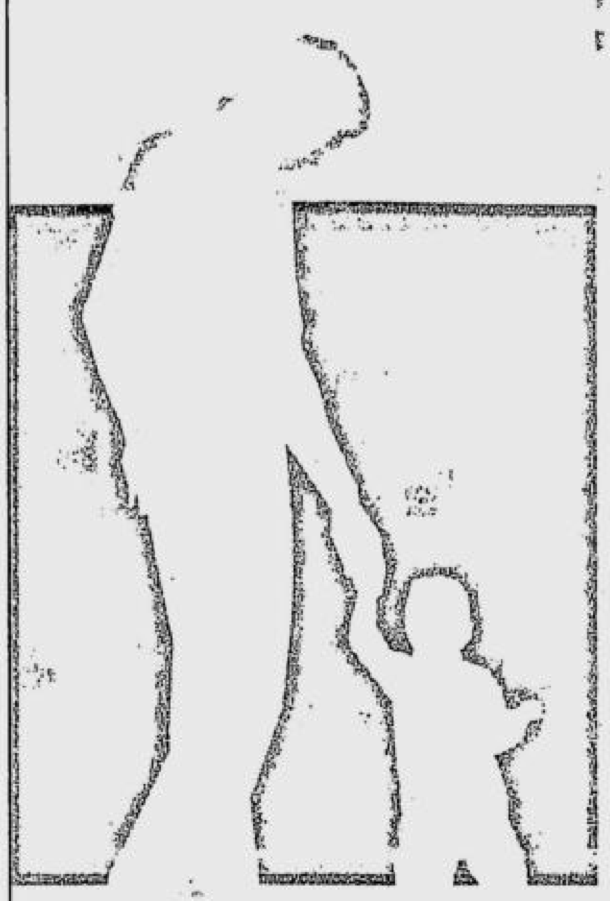
The time trend

Self-rated poverty was greatest in the near end of the Marcos dictatorship—in July 1985, 74 percent considered themselves poor. After the Edsa Revolution and the surge in spending, it subsided to 66 percent in May 1986 and even 43 percent in March 1987, the best of times.

Then came the 1987 coup attempt that broke spending confidence, and self-rated poverty rose again.

In the Corazon Aquino era it was highest during the time of the prolonged brownouts. Self-rated poverty gradually declined during the term of Fidel Ramos, but it spiked during the rice crisis. It also rose as a result of the Asian crisis.

By December 2000, 56 percent of the people rated their families as poor. *(Comments to dmarroyo@hotmail.com)*



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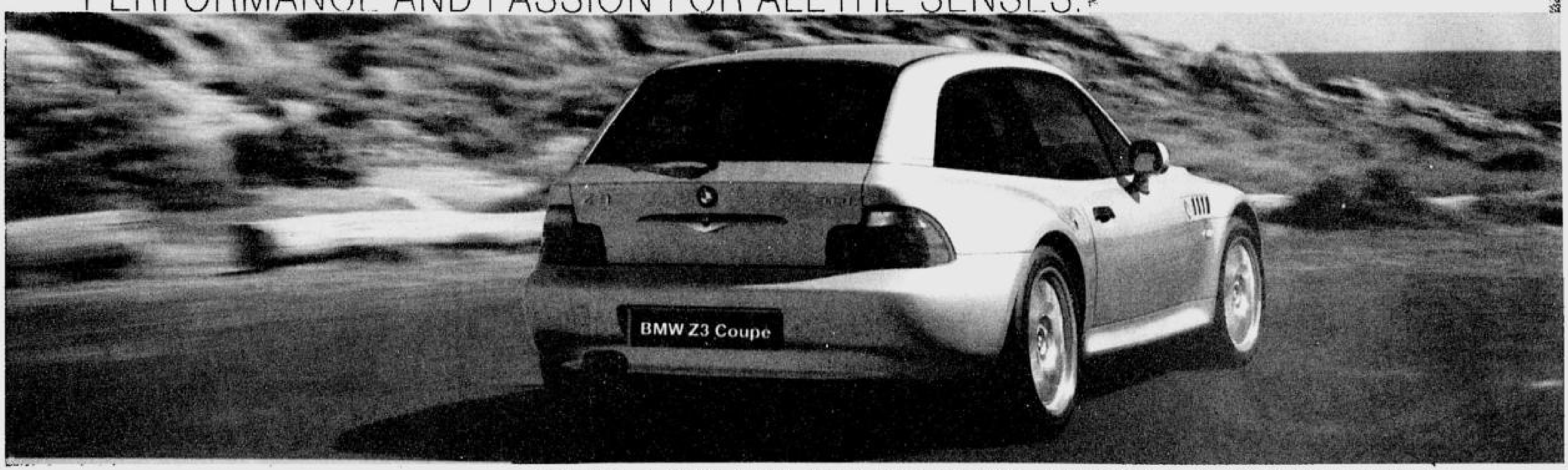

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Money laundering –a simple guide

SAINT PETERSBURG—Money laundering has been one of the world's fastest-growing industries over the past decade despite increasing efforts by the world's financial authorities to stamp it out.

Following is a simple guide to the world of money laundering.

Definition: Money laundering is the process by which money obtained by illegal means is given the appearance of legitimate income and returned into circulation.

Origins: The word and the practice are widely believed to have been invented by the US Mafia. As a means of mixing the dirty cash obtained from prostitution, gambling, gunrunning, extortion and its other nefarious activities, so that it came out more or less clean, the Mafia bought and operated large numbers of laundromats.

As good cash businesses they were a good means of providing the appearance of honest cash flow.

Means: Various techniques can be employed, but they essentially boil down to three stages.

Step one: Moving the money from the scene of the crime (A) to a remote location (B), ideally to another country and preferably placed in a bank account, if possible one that is anonymous.

Step two: Disguising the trail leading from A to B.

Step three: Making the cash available to the criminals, along with a plausible explanation of how it came legally into their possession.

Repercussions: Apart from harming the economies that it feeds off, the money-laundering industry is essential to organized crime. As the head of the UN's crime-fighting wing, Pino Arlacchi remarked Tuesday that organized crime "brutalizes society. It diminishes respect for the values like honesty and cooperation, upon which successful societies are based."

A senior US official said in 1999, "money-laundering may look like a polite form of white-collar crime, but it is the companion of brutality, deceit and corruption."

Incidence: Money-laundering is virtually universal. The International Monetary Fund recently estimated the global money laundering industry last year as worth at least $600 billion.

Responsibilities: As Financial Action Task Force official John Carlson noted, "even criminals like to keep their money somewhere safe," and the world's banks and financial institutions bear a share of the blame for the growth in money-laundering.

The FATF, created in 1989, has focused its energies on obliging banks and governments to tighten their rules regarding anonymity in financial affairs.

Recent trends: the liberalization of markets around the world and

MONEY/ C6

Treasurer sings swan song

By Clarissa S. Batino

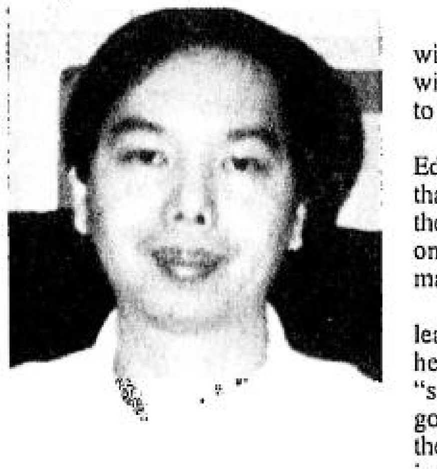
THE FINANCIAL market wasn't too surprised when National Treasurer Sergio Edeza announced his intention to leave his post by the end of next month or exactly five-and-a half months from the time he reported for work at the Palacio del Gobernador last Feb. 16.

Market watchers knew that when Boy, as he is fondly called by friends, agreed to take on the job, his stay would be brief but meaningful.

Handpicked by then Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo a week or two after the Macapagal administration took over last Jan. 20, Edeza was candid enough to tell his boss and even close associates that he would only stay long enough to jumpstart the market.

"After five-and-a-half months, I believe my work is already substantially completed and now is the best time to leave," says the 43-year-old official who says he may agree to stay a month or two longer from July for a smooth transition with his successor.

Edeza says he may recommend four competent individuals including Deputy Treasurer Ed Mendiola and Norma Lasala, senior vice president for Treasury of East West Bank, to replace him.



EDEZA leaves after five and a half months.

New Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho had a serious meeting with Edeza last week, apparently to talk him out of leaving. But despite his long 20-year friendship with Camacho, he would not be dissuaded.

"It's painful to leave a friend. It would have been nice to work with him. I'd like to but I can't afford to anymore," Edeza says half-jokingly as he admits that financial considerations are part of his reason for leaving government.

Camacho returned the compliment and said he would have liked to work with Edeza. But it was not to be and he understood the "personal and practical reasons" why the national treasurer would have to go.

Edeza, however, says he is ready to offer his services to the government for free in whatever way he can.

"They can pick my brains if they wish. I will offer advise or consult with them for free," he says, if only to convince them to let him go.

Traders and dealers lament Edeza's imminent departure, saying that while predecessors had handled the Bureau of Treasury well, it was only Boy who really knows the market like the back of his hand.

Even while their former colleague lashed at them at times when he believed the market is being "sneaky" and is trying to drive government's borrowing rates up, these guys also recognize that Edeza is equipped with the experience and the understanding of the market to achieve a win-win solution.

Edeza will become the second shortest serving treasury chief, after former National Treasurer Sixto Ortiz who worked for less than two months, from Feb.28 to April 10, 1950.

He believes his work is substantially complete after initiating reforms to help professionalize the trade, revolutionalize the auction process and perfect the delivery system.

Edeza says he would continue to meet with market practitioners to solicit their suggestions on how to further improve the local financial system. "I think I have jumpstarted the market and now, somebody else can steer it to completion," he says.

He says he liked to be remembered not as the treasurer who tamed the market but one who means what he says and will do exactly that.

Last month, for instance, when the market tried to jack up the rates of the five-year treasury bonds, he warned that he would simply cancel the auction. A week later, he did just that.

He also took a potshot at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials who accused him of "talking like a monetary official" and "interfering with purely monetary issues."

At the start of his term as treasurer, Edeza consistently lobbied for further rate cuts from the BSP so that Treasury bill rates would also go down.

Edeza justified his stand, saying that as a finance official, BSP's interest rates were also his concern because they affect the government's borrowing stance.

"Only BSP thinks it has a monopoly on monetary issues. But they should not expect to gag me because I am not on a warpath," he says.

Reporters who cover Edeza would remember him as the official who dishes out the most interesting quotes that enliven the daily grind. He would not hesitate in criticizing traders when he feels they are "being sneaky."

"I say what's on my mind. I am just an official trying to find the best solution for the country's problems," Edeza says.

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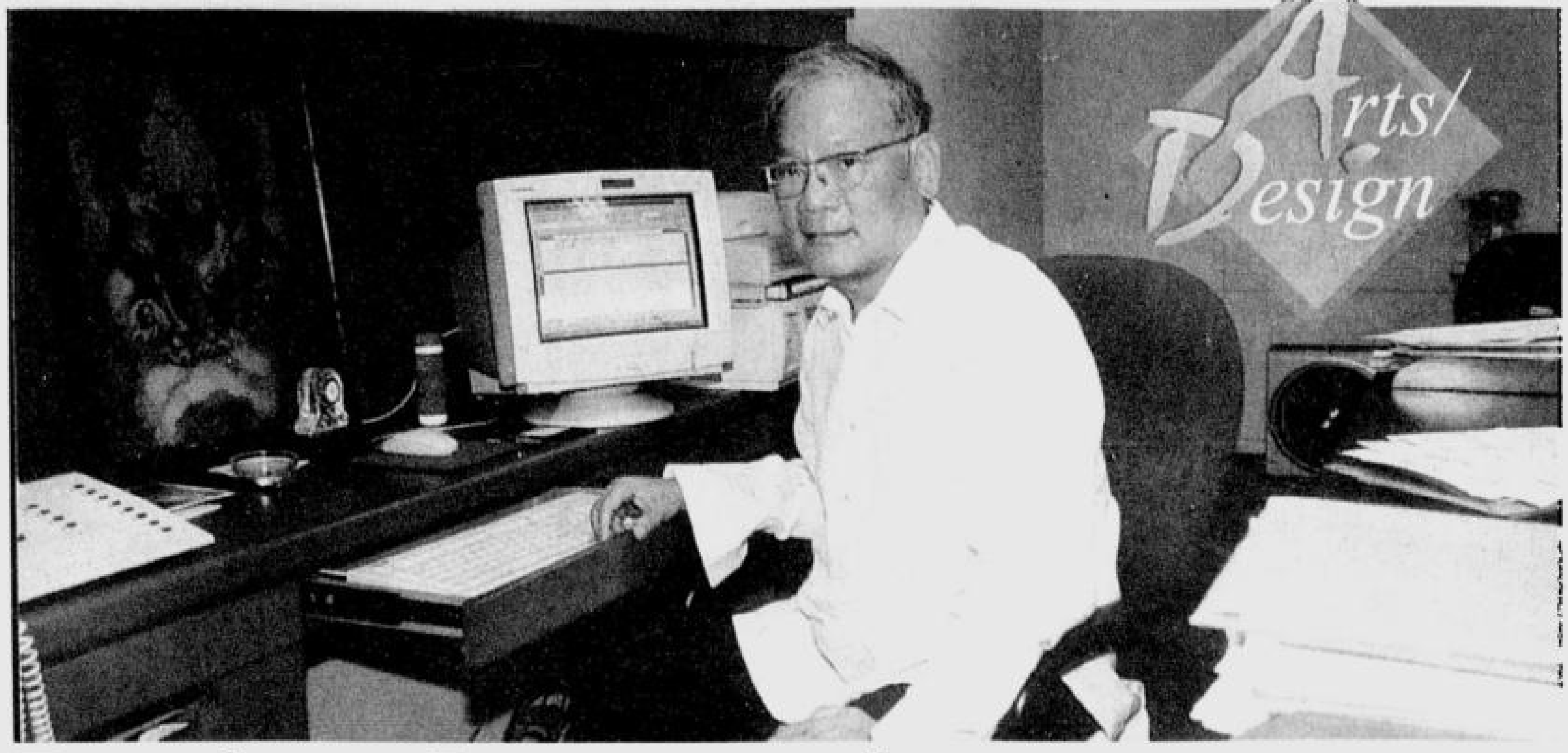

The country's arts and culture regime has become visionary, steady and effective under the NCCA led by chair Jaime Laya

Putting rhyme and reason to arts and culture management

By Lito B. Zulueta

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaims the country's newest National Artists on Wednesday in Malacañang, the people will not only bask in the glory of its best artistic minds. It will bask in the confidence that its arts and culture regime has a firm purpose and a clear direction, qualities that are usually hard to come by considering the fractious nature of our artists and cultural workers.

The National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) under chair Jaime Laya has provided that purpose and direction. A cultural worker at heart under the mien of a management man, Laya has steered the commission through the shoals of cultural planning and decision-making. Under his guidance and with the cooperation of the committee heads and board members, the NCCA has set visionary but workable goals in cultural development and provided standards of cultural excellence.

Although the NCCA is only a few years old, it has gotten its act together, implemented a number of high-profile cultural programs, and most important, rationalized the National Endowment for Culture and the Arts. A number of its priority programs—such as support for artistic excellence and support for culture and development—have benefited artists and cultural groups.

Begun in 1998, for instance, NCCA's support for artistic excellence has enabled Filipino artists, emerging and established, to create works of art, to participate in prestigious local and international contests, exhibits, performances and training, and to receive honors for exemplary achievements. It is this program that funded the Madrigal Singers, the University of Santo Tomas Singers and Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club to perform and win choral competitions abroad. It is also this program that created the Gawad Manlilikha ng Bayan, which recognizes the best of traditional and folk artists.

It is also this program that is overseeing the construction of a National Gallery for Contemporary Arts that will house modern Philippine art works and support the visual arts. The gallery will draw from several state collections, according to Laya, such as the Bangko Sentral's and the National Museum's.

More effective system

Of course, perhaps the most important program for cultural excellence promotion is the National Artist Awards. Under Laya, the NCCA had broken the stalemate that resulted from the predictable turf war with the Cultural Center of the Philippines over the giving of the awards. The impasse resulted in the awards not being given between 1991 and 1997.

The deadlock was broken when Laya and then CCP president Baltazar Endriga worked to resolve the differences of the two major cultural agencies. In 1997, the awards were revived.

For this year's installment, the NCCA and CCP have improved the system. The NCCA secretariat accepted and screened the nominations that came from all over the country. A Special Research Group not only checked the nominees, but did extra work to determine if other worthy artists had not been left out of the nomination process.

A Council of Peers was also formed composed of artists, critics, historians and National Artists. The first round of deliberations was done by sector or discipline. After discussion, the council voted to reduce the number of nominees. Then there ensued the second round of deliberations, chaired by NCCA executive director Virgilio Almario and cochaired by CCP president Amita Rufino. Then the voting was done multisectorally. The final list of nominees went to the joint boards of the NCCA and CCP for the final selection.

Laya explained the new system is "more democratic, the net is wider, and the standards are clearer." He emphasized that in deliberation and decision-making, the different levels of selection hewed to the standards set forth by the law instituting the National Artist Awards: body of work, excellence in craft, consistency and distinct Filipino contribution.

Perhaps because the system has been improved and rendered more transparent, there have been less catcalls about the new National Artists: the late theater artist Severino Montano, the late filmmaker Ishmael Bernal, fictionist F. Sionil Jose and visual artist Ang Kiukok.

Cultural development

Perhaps less visible though not necessary less important is the program on cultural development, in which support is given to activities that infuse cultural dimension to development and enhance culture in daily life. Under this program, the NCCA funded the National Children's Festival in Laguna, workshops of different cultural communities, and art councils all over the country.

Laya said the NCCA has just approved a grant of 1.5 million to

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MANDARIN GM Helmut Gaisberger

A feast of Israeli couscous and Pinoy 'bagoong'

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NETHERLANDS Ambassador Theo Arnold with Malta Ambassador Ike Syquia

ROCKY Delgado Garcia and friends

HELEN Ong, Kessara Arnold

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

YOUNG, lovely and knowledgeable Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba** of the State of Israel, together with Israeli guest chef **Miki Nir** and his two assistants, laid out a feast of Israeli food at the Mandarin Oriental a week before the celebration of their national day.

The gastronomic event at the Captain's Bar might have been a dress rehearsal for the celebration that had hordes of guests crowding the buffet tables lining both sides of the ballroom with couscous, *tabouleh*, falafel, *chraime*, hummus, baklava and *megadarra*. You would have loved it. The piece de resistance was this absolutely yummy steamed fresh salmon with lemon and white wine sauce that only worsened Amiga's expanding waistline.

Partaking of the buffet that was a vegetarian's dream were business mogul **Eli Levin**, Belgian Ambassador **Roland van Remoortele** and the charming **Sylvia**, **Sigalit Djemal**, **Fiona Malca**, elegant **Kessara Arnold**, **Marit Colomé Yuchengco** (who got her girlish figure back almost immediately after giving birth), **Mita** and **Tony Rufino**, Singapore Ambassador **Jacky Foo** and the delightful Dr. **Yumian Foo** (who, despite looking like a teenager, is a doctor of physics), **Narda Camacho** (once known as the Recycling Queen but now as the new Finance Secretary's mother). **Maan Hontiveros** was all smiles and so was **Raquel Delgado Garcia**—but all of this was of course before that perfectly dreadful election we just had.

* * *

Dancing hostess **Letty Syquia**, wife of Philippine Ambassador to Malta **Enrique Syquia**, **Melly Ablaza**, **Nelly Bengzon**, **Thelma Gana** and ladies of the Diplomatic Corps such as **Kessara Arnold** from the Netherlands, **Kay Siason** (we're glad to hear Ambassador Siason is up and about), **Alice Buckley** of Australia, **Ulrike da Silva** and **Saku Kumasiri** of Sri Lanka got together to cha-cha, boogie and rumba at a *merienda cena* celebrating Helen Ong's birthday. There was this sea of Filipino delicacies including *bibingka*, *puto bungbong* and *lumpiang hubad* that was finished like this was our Last Supper. But while you're groaning about our political environment, you really have to try *santol* with *bagoong*. Truly heavenly and eaten with *halo-halo* on the side—it had Boysie Villavicencio raising his eyebrows. To everyone's delight, Brazil's charge d'affaires, Carlos Carvalho, took over the mike and serenaded the ladies

JOEY Lina

JUN Magsaysay

KESSARA Arnold, Helen Ong, Ivie Costa

EUROPEAN Union Ambassador Yves Gazzo, Sylvia van Remoortele, Belgian Ambassador Roland van Remoortele, Marit Colomé Yuchengco and Paz Yuchengco

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

ALICE Buckley, Kay Siason, Ulrike da Silva and Saku Kumasiri

ISRAELI guest chef Miki Nir and Israel Ambassador Irit Ben-Abba (fourth and fifth from left) with Embassy first ladies

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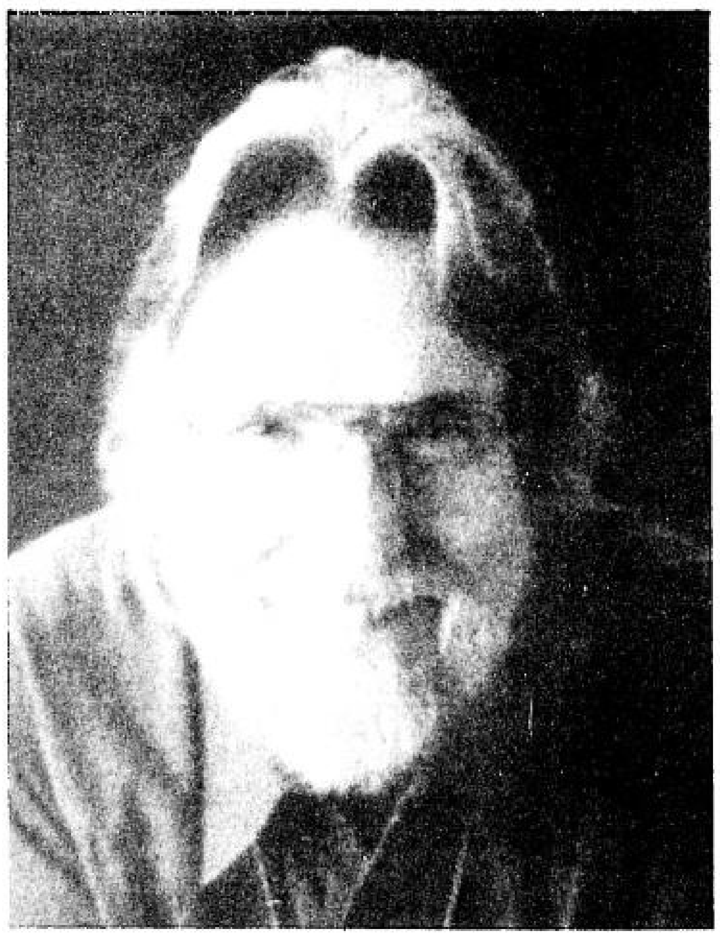

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Manila group in US ballet tour

THE EFFIE Nañas School of Ballet members in action

THE EFFIE Nañas School of classical ballet is touring the United States. They will be guesting in a ballet concert with the West Lake School for the Performing Arts in San Mateo, California on June 24. The group is also being invited by the Philippine Independence Week Committee to perform for the Filipino community in Chicago during the Philippine Independence Week celebration.

Remembering good friends who passed away

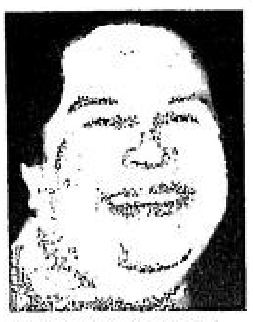
PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WE were listening to Diomedes Maturan sing "I Walk with God" during the funeral Mass of Ramon Vecin, who passed away on May 31 after a lingering illness. He had brain tumor. His funeral Mass was held at the St. Alphonsus Ligouri Church in Magallanes Village after a few days' wake at one of the chapels.

Ramon was the brother of Quico Vecin, who is with Friends of St. Joseph Foundation. Ramon was a tall, good-looking fellow who worked with Philippine Airlines for 31 years as a flight steward and then as a purser.

The presence of friends and relatives during his wake and funeral Mass on June 5 meant a lot to his immediate family. It assuaged their grief and helped cope with the loss of someone they love. Msgr. Matt Garcia celebrated the Mass with the group of Dennis Maturan singing the "Missa de Angeles."



ALBERT Seeland

And so we listened to Diomedes Maturan sing "I Walk with God" during the Communion part, and as I sat there, I reflected on what my friend Ed Valenciano wrote to me about death a few days ago. Ed was a veteran hotelier for 25 years, half of which was spent with the original Holiday Inn Manila.

Why fear death, he asked. It came to mind that just last year, three close friends passed away. Bobby de la Fuerte Sison on Nov. 21 from brain tumor, after spending 15 months at the Makati Medical Center; Albert Seeland who died on Dec. 24 after a massive stroke; and Jay Cariño on July 9, also after a stroke. All were in the prime of their lives when they passed away.

Their death has saddened us. At times, we think of the time we spent with them. Whenever I used to feel sad, I would call Albert, who always made me laugh. Now that he's gone, I truly miss him. But I just comfort myself with the thought that Albert is in heaven.

Journey to heaven

Ed wrote me about his astral experience. He writes: "I wrote about my trip in my journal—to places which culminated in what I refer to as my 'journey to heaven.' Here, I saw a never-ending vastness of the universe enveloped by blue lights—an eternity of an expanse lighted with electric blue stars.

CECILE Santos Girman

"Imagine yourself floating among the planets, constellations and other heavenly bodies. And comfortably enjoying it all in the vastness of a space that seems to have no beginning or an ending.

"And then, the 'coupe de grace'—the feeling of total peace, peace within oneself/yourself and everything else that one interacts with, an experience that can truly be described as peace in the truest sense of the word.

"A feeling of peace that has no earthly parallel; peace that knows no end; peace that is borne from a sensation of being lovingly embraced and cradled by an unseen Someone."

Knowing such peace, would one still fear death?

Preparing for death

God is the only one who knows when we would die. But Ed says we should prepare for it nevertheless. He talks about doing good deeds, sharing one's temporal wealth, living the life that God originally planned for you.

Leafing through memoirs

One evening at her apartment, Bonjin Bolinao was leafing through an old album looking for photos of Cecile Santos Girman, who passed away on May 25 in New Jersey after a long illness caused by breast cancer. Cecile was a dear friend of Bonjin. She used to dance ballet with her sister Tina Santos. Then she married Michael Girman and lived in the United States for many years.

For three years, she had a battle with cancer. Holding back her tears, Bonjin told us when she saw a depressed Cecile on her last trip to New York last April. She finally found a picture of a smiling Cecile.

Taking care of the terminally ill

THE MADRE de Amor Hospice Foundation takes care of the terminally ill in its facilities in Los Baños, Laguna. It also trains volunteer caregivers. Established in 1995, the hospice has ushered 198 patients peacefully into the next life.

If you want to help maintain the hospice, please write to Monina Allarey Mercado, president of Madre de Amor Hospice Foundation, at 9957 Amethyst St., Los Baños Subdivision, College, Laguna or call (049) 536-0644. Make checks payable to the foundation if you wish to donate.

'I Walk with God'

THE SONG "I Walk with God" was the theme song of the musical "Student Prince" written by Sigmund Romberg. It was made into a movie starring Edmund Purdum as the prince and Anne Blythe as the commoner who falls in love with the prince. When the King dies, the prince sings this song. The song inspires one not to be afraid because God is always there.

It goes this way: "I walk with God/From this day on/I walk with God/He'll understand/This is my prayer, my humble plea/May the Lord be ever with me//There is no death/No eyes grow dim/There is no fear/When I'm near to Him/I lean on Him forever/And He'll forsake me never//He will not fail me/For as long as my faith is strong/Whatever world I may walk along."

Changes in Sacred Heart novena

HERE are changes in the venues for the Sacred Heart novena: June 14, Camp Crame Chapel; June 16, Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Merc, June 19, Bureau of Customs; June ?' Basilica de San Lorenzo Ruiz and June 22 (to be announced).

Holy Land pilgrimage

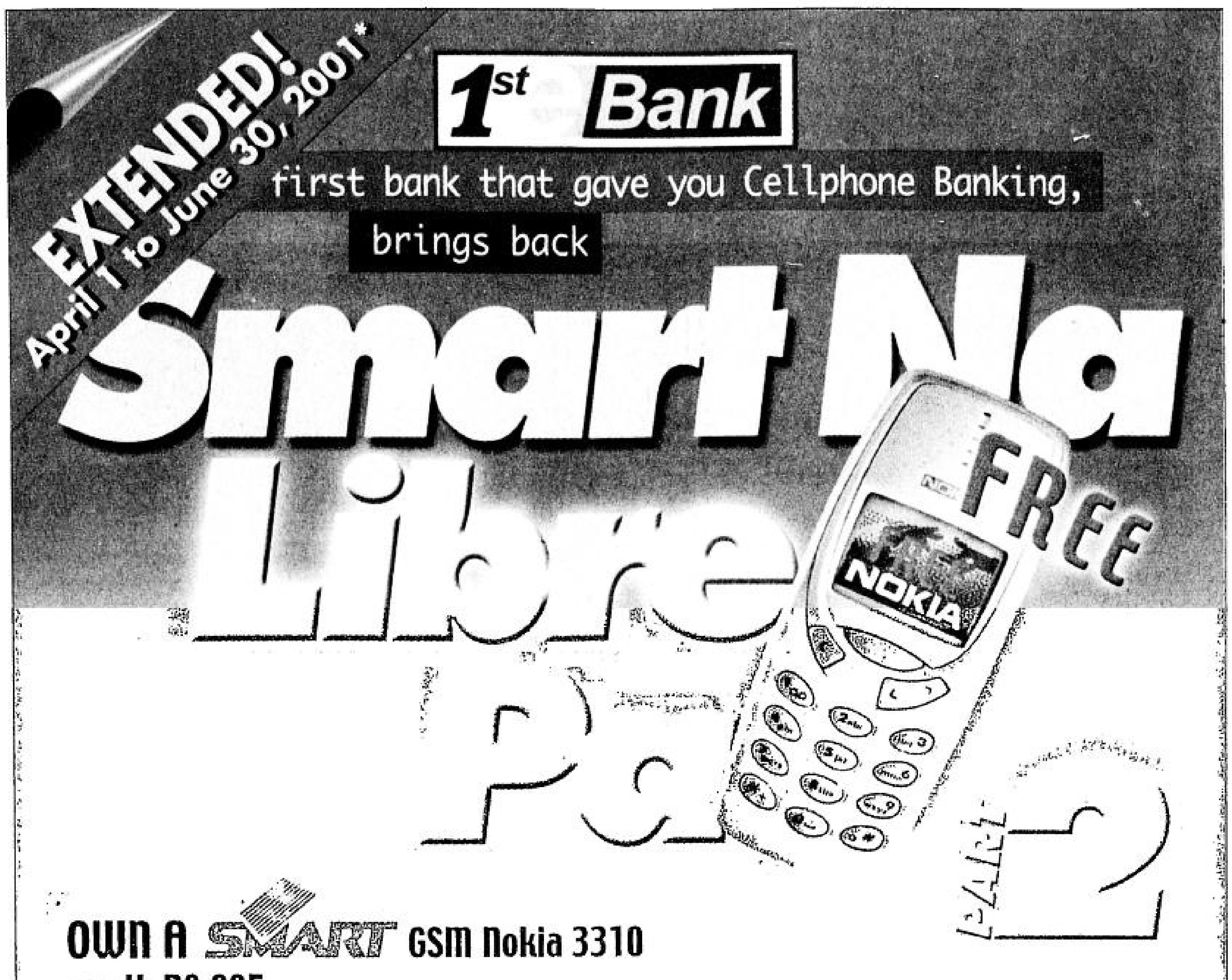
TOUR operators in Jerusalem has assured Arpex Travel a I other travel agents that Israel is safe for pilgrimages. So Arpex Travel is arranging trips on Sept. 13 and Oct. 18. Those who are interested can call 525-3883/3902. Ask for Ms Padlan.

Sacred Heart fiesta in Tacloban

THE SACRED Heart Parish [illegible] Tacloban is preparing for the grand fiesta of the Sacred Heart on June 13. Fr Alex Opiniano is the first Filipino parish priest to take over.

St. Anthony de Padua fiesta

CHURCHES dedicated to St. Anthony de Padua will celebrate his feast day on June 13. The saint is called "the miracle worker." His image is enshrined in Ermita Church, Singalong Parish and Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.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The legacy of Severino Montano

By Cora Llamas

The theater titan, to be posthumously awarded National Artist on June 13, was driven by the passion to bring theater to the people

"WHILE art implies aristocracy in the creation, it must eventually become truly democratic in its perception."

The man who wrote and said those words, National Artist Severino Montano (1915-1980), literally lived by them. He was an intellectual aristocrat, learned in philosophy, economics and dramaturgy (among other subjects), and educated in the finest schools in his country and overseas. At a time when grants were not as common to writers and directors as they are now, he enjoyed the privilege of studying in the cultural centers of 98 international cities. Montano was probably one of our earliest global scholars, immersing himself in the schools of thought and management styles of the art circles in the Middle East, India, South Asia, China and Japan.

Yet his passion was to bring theater, regarded as a hobby by the elite and affluent in the 1950s, to the masses. If the poor and uneducated couldn't afford to enter the illustrious theater houses of Manila, Montano brought it to them. His aptly named Arena Theater, founded in 1953, staged productions in "cockpits, schools, ricefields, yards, plazas, open spaces," remembers Naty Crame Rogers, Montano's leading lady, disciple, colleague and best friend.

"We both felt that drama is the answer to most of our nation's problems and could help in our development," she says. "Montano established grass-roots theater. Arena Theater, which started out as an experimental tool for our students, branched out into 45 provinces in the 1950s. It was like a fiesta wherever we went; people came out to the plazas to see us. We performed during rain and shine, and Severino arranged everything."

Arena was based in the Philippine Normal College (PNC) which, describes Rogers, "had the pulse of the people." Montano could have taught in any university in the country. "But he wanted to be close to the masses. Our students then were really poor; they were the children of the drivers, the market vendors, the day laborers."

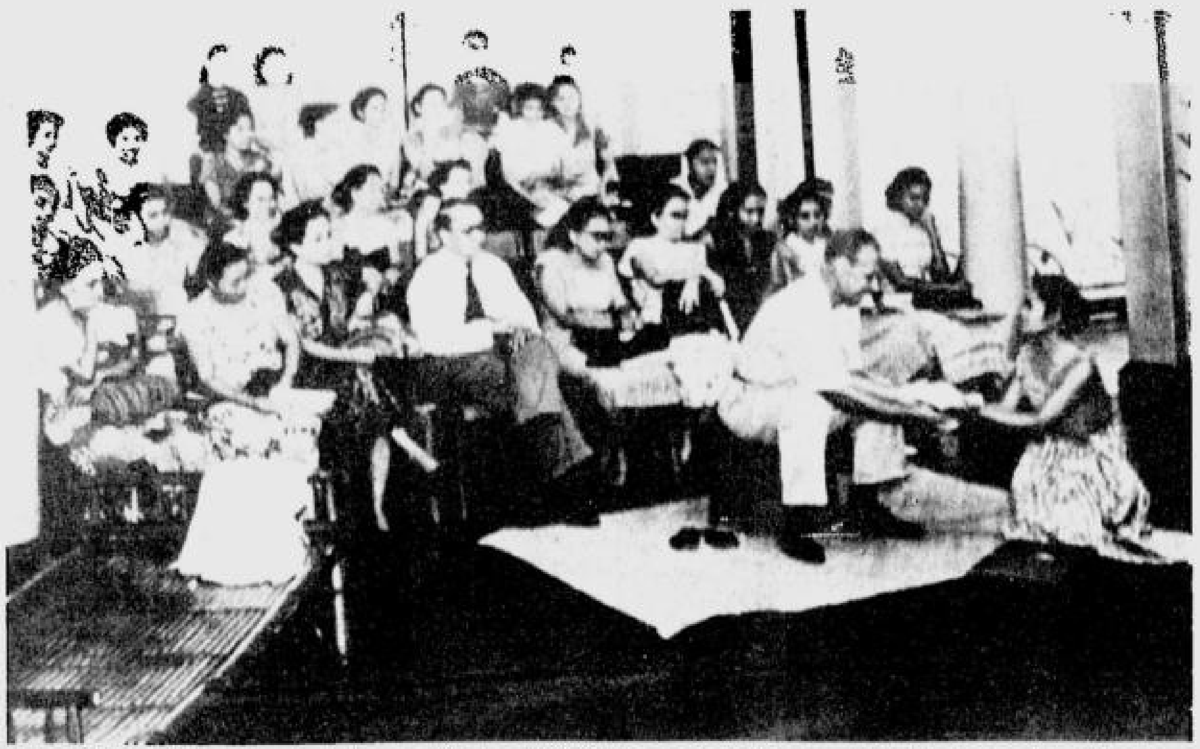
Heritage

The Arena tours restored the people to their lost dramatic heritage. During the Spanish era, Philippine theater had always been a collective celebration. It was literally a family gathering of the town or city. The ordinary people trooped to watch the *moro-moro* and *sinakulo* in the churchyards or open-air *poblacions*. They also participated; all that a would-be performer needed to do was to be willing and diligent.

NEW NATIONAL Artist for Drama Severino Montano: He fought and worked for a democratic theater for Filipinos.

The coming of the Americans changed all that. The US educational system implemented English as the medium of instruction and discourse, and elitism reared its ugly head in the languages. It was no longer acceptable to speak in the vernacular. A new generation of students was also introduced to the Western classics and the proscenium type of theater. It was not before long that these were regarded as the only "legitimate" dramatic form. Theater stopped being communal, and in the process became removed from the people's day-to-day lives.

Arena's outreach productions laid the seeds for the development of "national theater," cultural historian and theater critic Nicanor G. Tiongson summarizes. "It was a commendable idea: revealing to the masses that theater should not just be for the urbanized."


ARENA THEATER. Severino Motano's "Sabina," 1953, was staged in the round, both indoors and outdoors.

VETERAN actress Naty Crame Rogers: Montano believed theater was the answer to the nation's problems.

LITERARY pillar Bienvenido Lumbera: Montano inspired the activist theater of the 1960s.

"That was Montano's biggest contribution," Professor Emeritus and literary pillar Bienvenido Lumbera points out. "The PNC teachers (Montano's students) brought the concept of accessible theater to the provinces. Arena Theater eventually had a remote influence on the activist theater of the 1960s. During the First Quarter Storm, the people wanted to make their message known, and theater was the medium. But they wanted a portable kind of theater, which could easily be staged without an auditorium or technicals." Arena Theater pointed them in the right direction.

Auteur

Montano was an auteur. In some ways, he had to be; as a pioneer of the art, he was the one who kept his entire company going. Flamboyant, larger than life, with his booming voice and height, he meticulously ran every aspect of his company. He was actor, producer, director, with 30 plays, 150 poems and one novel to his name. Arena's repertoire consisted of his four most popular works: "The Love of Leonor Rivera," "Sabina," "The Ladies and the Senator" and "Parting at Calamba." A total of 200 performances toured the provinces, especially Pangasinan, Negros Occidental and Cebu.

His involvement extended to the production design, the marketing, the financing. With every aspect of the production firmly conceptualized in his mind, all that his production staff had to do was execute, under his guidance. Trips to the Divisoria Market to buy materials for his costumes were common. Other essentials were obtained by sheer resourcefulness. Arena's resident technical and lighting expert, Pablo Asuncion, worked at the nearby Philippine School of Arts and Trades (now the Technological University of the Philippines). Severino had just asked him to come aboard one day.

What Rogers fondly remembers was the participation of Chito Madrigal, then Manila's leading socialite, as Leonor Rivera. "Severino met her in Washington and then cast her as Leonor. At that time, the elite were expected to know culture and arts. The social circles naturally stood up and noticed. Manila's 400 came during the premiere to watch Chito, who was the toast of society, act." Rogers then adds with a twinkle in her eyes, "Leonor's costumes were fabulous." Madrigal, who obviously wanted to be at her best, "spent for them!"

Rumors of an affair between him and Rogers did not faze Montano. To calm her down, he simply said, "The talk will help in making people to come to our shows."

Product of his times

In retrospect, Montano had been criticized for the content of his plays and his use of the English language. His writings were regarded as emotionally overblown melodramas that did not address the social issues and concerns of his time. While they were presented to the "*masa*," they were very far from being "*masa*."

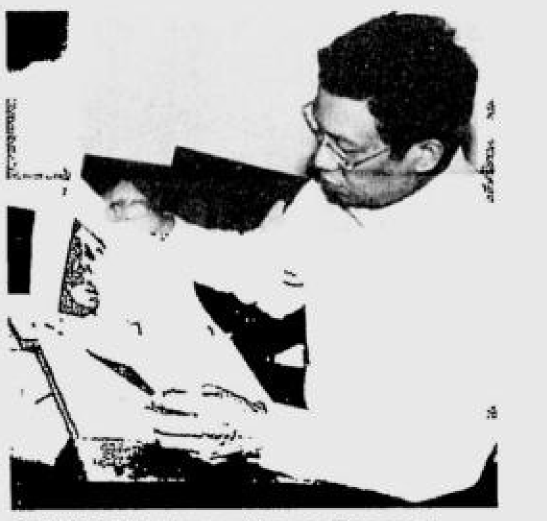
"He was a product of his times," Tiongson explains. "Montano—like his contemporaries Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero and Alberto Florentino—were the transitions who bridged the Western theater introduced by the Americans and the nationalist theater that flourished during the 1960s. English may have been his medium, but he wrote about Filipino subjects: our experience under the Americans, the Manila senators, Philippine history. The entire cultural scene in the 1950s was flooded with Americana. It was not common to tackle Rizal in theater." But Montano did.

The National Artist developed his love for theater as a 13-year-old student of Marie Leslie Prising, a Philippine-based British thespian. He studied in UP under Jean Edades in the 1930s. Afterward, he taught in UP for a time, presiding over the UP Dramatics Guild. He also managed the community-based Central Dramatic Guild in Manila.

In the 1940s, he went to the US and workshopped under artists like Otto Preminger, Gutrie McClintic and Elmer Rico. During that period, he earned a masteral degree in fine arts from Yale University, a masteral degree in economics from the American University in Washington, and courses in counseling for mass media at New York University.

As for Montano's not writing in Tagalog later on, Rogers offers a simple explanation: "He was Ilocano! He couldn't." Montano did try to translate his productions into the vernacular, but the "translatese" versions didn't work. Rogers recalls that the inaccuracies had people laughing aloud. (One example: Rizal says, "Let me have a lock of your hair." The translation: "*Maaari bang makakuha nang buhok mo?*") In one staging, because of the proximity of the characters to each other, Rizal telling Leonor in all drama that he was "*tapat na tapat ako sa iyo*" was interpreted to have sexual innuendoes.

Montano's era represented the breakaway from US dominance. "Can we blame him?" Tiongson asks. "That was up to the next generation who stood on the shoulder of giants."


CULTURAL historian Nicanor Tiongson: Montano's Arena Theater planted the seeds of a truly national theater.

Putting rhyme and reason to arts and culture management

(From page D1)

Philstage, the federation of theater companies, in a unique program to bring theater closer to the masses. He explained that the grant would come in the form of 15,000 vouchers to be distributed to public schools that would then choose from among the various Philstage season offerings.

The NCCA has also fine-tuned the country's cultural diplomacy with well-thought-out programs. It helps Philippine embassies abroad in their cultural dissemination work. Starting 1999, it has been assisting the Department of Foreign Affairs in drafting cultural agreements with foreign countries. It has also distributed to embassies and consulates packages of books, tapes and CDs on Philippine culture.

The NCCA, according to Laya, has set up an arrangement with Ambassador Cesar Bautista, the coordinator of European missions, to send top lecturers in the continent. The lecture tour is expected to acquaint European cultural leaders, parliamentarians, and educators about different facets of Philippine arts and culture. Set to lecture are broadcast journalist Cheche Lazaro and film director Eddie Romero.

The NCCA' has also identified international arts festivals that would require more determined and well planned Filipino participation. As for Filipino communities abroad, Laya said the NCCA has formed a speakers bureau to conduct lecture tours and reacquaint Filipinos abroad with their own culture. A website has also been set up that overseas Filipinos can access for information about their culture and the NCCA's policies and programs.

Heritage conservation

In the dire work of conserving cultural heritage, the NCCA has funded the restoration of heritage structures, the excavation of archeological sites, and the revival of dying traditional and indigenous rituals and practices. It has also supported the campaign for the recognition of various sites in the country as World Heritage Sites. It has identified 23 structures of the Spanish colonial period and also of ethnic mold, which can be included in the Philippine Built Heritage Project.

The NCCA has embarked on high-profile and specialized activities to drum up interest in culture and the arts, using the broadcast, print and electronic media in a multifaceted campaign to influence a wider audience. It has for example institutionalized the National Arts Month every February, sent nationwide the Kalakbay Kultura Kalayaan caravan, launched the "Tipong Pinoy" TV program, and held the Bukambibig literary readings in Metro Manila bars and public libraries.

Organizationally, the NCCA has rationalized the rules of membership to the various national committees in order to ensure wider sector representation and better selection. Earlier, it drafted the implementing rules and regulations after extensive regional and national consultations to clarify its duties and work and foster efficiency in operations. The rules are comprehensive: they define the functions of the organizational units and even the general principles in the use of the National Endowment Fund for Culture and the Arts.

Perhaps the rationalization of the national endowment grant is Laya's most important accomplishment as NCCA chair. As a result of the professional screening of grant proposals, many say that the grant program has become highly competitive as well as effective and transparent.

NEW National Artist for Literature F. Sionil jose

NEW National Artist for Visual Arts Ang Kiukok

LAYA: He has rationalized the national endowment grant program.

Perhaps the boldest enterprise yet of the NCCA is the drafting of a cultural plan, the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan for Culture and the Arts, which dovetails with the national plan. Being drafted together with the National Economic and Development Authority and other cultural agencies, Laya said the cultural plan seeks to place culture at the fulcrum of national development.

Controversies

With all of these accomplishments, it is unfortunate that Laya and the NCCA continue to be hounded by controversies that cast suspicion on the way they have managed the NCCA, particularly the endowment fund. Last February, in fact, an open letter urged the President to appoint former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani as chair of the NCCA "to head a Restoration Movement for us to safeguard our ideas, works, treasurers and international funds that may have been sprinted (sic) away." The letter was signed by National Artists Napoleon Abueva, Nick Joaquin, Leonor Orosa Goquinco and Jose Maceda.

The NCCA took exception to the letter. "The letter signers are sadly misinformed with respect to the NCCA funds... The NCCA operates in full transparency and reports fund usage in detail through the NCCA Newsletter and a website," the board said.

The letter was misguided since no "international funds" had been misused. Moreover, the President cannot unilaterally appoint the NCCA commissioner. The board chooses the chair from among the heads of the four subcommissions —on cultural heritage, arts, cultural dissemination, and cultural communities and traditional arts. The subcommissions themselves are composed of heads of national committees on different cultural concerns. Laya is head of the Committee on Monuments and Sites, which is part of the Subcommission on Cultural Heritage, where he is chair. By virtue of his subcommission chairmanship, he was voted by the NCCA board as NCCA chair.

It appears that a disgruntled Unesco commissioner who had a history of unliquidated cash advances circulated the letter. Just the same, Abueva, Goquinco and Maceda said that when the letter was presented to them, it did not have the line about "international funds being sprinted away." Joaquin altogether denied signing the letter.

Last month, during the meeting of the Committee on Libraries, the head, Irene Amores, suddenly resigned and said that Shahani was taking over (Amores used to be an aide of Shahani when the latter was a senator). When questioned about the inordinate procedure, Amores said that Shahani might not be a librarian but she was a library user. Obviously, the former senator was setting herself up against Laya to wrest the Subcommission on Cultural Heritage and eventually, the NCCA chairmanship.

But the NCCA board has not recognized the change of heads in the Committee on Libraries. It is ironic for one that for all of Shahani's claim of being the mother of the NCCA law (a law that was also sired by Senators Edgardo Angara and Heherson Alvarez and Rep. Carlos Padilla), she is trying to wrest control of the commission through means that are against the implementing rules of the law she claimed to have authored and legislated.

In the runup to the NCCA election this month, divisive politics has again reared its ugly head. The arts and culture regime needs stability and continuity in policies and leadership. Stability, order and vision should win the day against petty politicking.

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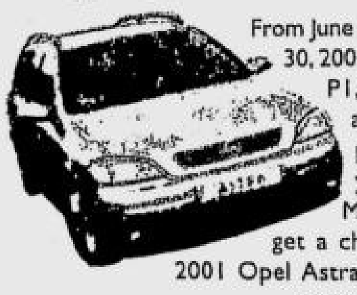

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YOUNG ARTISTS AT ENTERPRISE CENTER. Emerging artists Olan Ventura, Pedro Garcia, Clemente Aragon, Wesley Valenzuela, Mark Matabilas and Ryan Jimenez exhibit their works at the Big and Small Gallery of The Enterprise Center (6766 Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas). Exhibit opens on June 14, 5:30 p.m.

PRUDENCIO Lamarroza, Gus Albor, Roy Veneracion, Ian Veneracion and Chati Coronel represent a fusion of different genres and generations in their show at the Aresi Restaurant, Tomas Morato, QC. The exhibit runs until July 15. From left, Ian and Roy Veneracion, Aresi PR and marketing manager Grace Apolinario and Amor Lamarroza

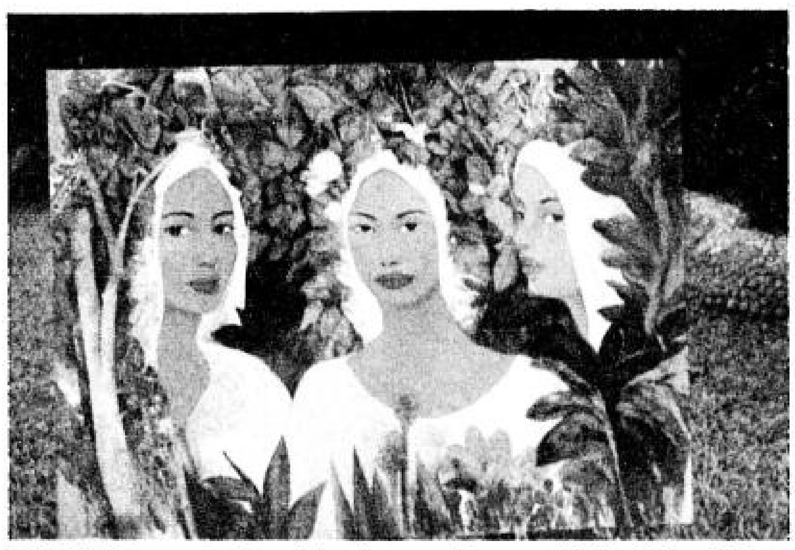
REVO Yanson with his "Fragile" series work

Ang Kiukok at Heart Center; Alegre at Kaffe Sining; Viri at Hiraya

THE PHILIPPINE Heart Center Art Gallery Committee opens today "Ang Kiukok: Tribute to a National Artist," featuring 15 works from the 1970s by the country's newest National Artist for the Visual Arts. The works are part of the Heart Center's collection.

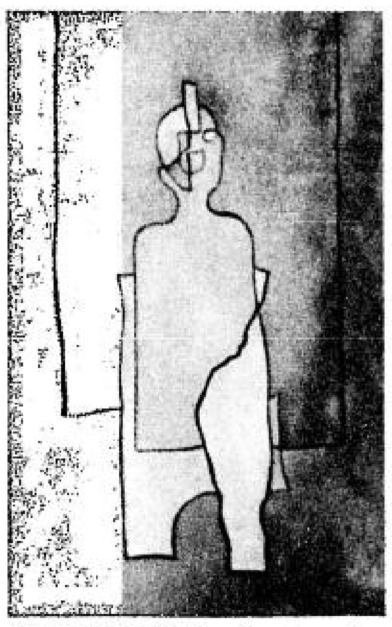
VISUAL ARTS

ALEGRE AT KAFFE SINING. Noted artist Hermes Alegre will mount his major solo exhibit for this year at the Kaffe Sining Gallery on J. Nakpil Street, Malate on June 14. Dubbed "Nymphs in Bloom," Alegre has put together 20 of his most important paintings in the past year. "Nymphs in Bloom" is Alegre's ode to two major concerns: Beauty and the environment. In this particular exhibit, however, instead of a general interpretation of nature, Alegre focuses on gardens, blooms and flowers.



"THREE Graces in Bloom" by Hermes Alegre at Kaffe Sining, Malate

VIRI AT HIRAYA GALLERY. "Through a Prism, Darkly" by Francisco Pellicer Viri will be on view from June 16 to July 4 at Hiraya Gallery, 530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila. Call 523-3331.



"HOPSCOTCH King," watercolor, by Francisco Pellicer Viri at Hiraya

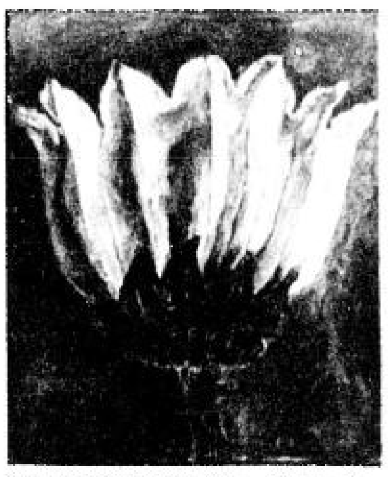
ESCORA AT ENTERPRISE CENTER. Kiko Escora will be mounting his 6th solo exhibit at the Big and Small Art Gallery. His new paintings explore the materialistic culture pervading modern life and how this alienates people from their real selves. The exhibit, dubbed "Synthetic Solitude," will be on view from June 19 to July 15 at the Upper Lobby of The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Ave. corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Call 371-8887

NAVAS AT WEST GALLERY. Singapore-based artist Elaine Roberto-Navas will mount her first exhibit in Manila, "Wallflowers," from June 14-26 at the West Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Makati City. Call 752-7028/29.

ABANO AT AYALA MUSEUM. Ambie Abaño mounts her 8th one-woman show dubbed "Florescence" at the Ma'I Room of the Ayala Museum. The exhibit runs until June 17. Call 812-1191 to 97 local 106.

SENA AT THE CRUCIBLE. Fernando B. Sena will exhibit his latest works dubbed "Floresena" on June 26 at the Crucible Gallery. 4/F The Artwalk, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit runs until July 15.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT BAHAY NAKPIL. The art group Hugiskulaya Sining Pangkat presents its works at Bahay Nakpil-Bautista (Tahanan ng Kultura), 452 A. Bautista St., Quiapo, Manila. The exhibit showcases varied subjects, media and styles. Dubbed "Color Fusion," it presents works of Joey Alambro, Ruel Cabanting, Robert Recana, Ernan Pillerva, Romeo Lacson, Rolando Decena, Meliton Paz, Marion Salvador, Raymond Armedilla, Nune Alvarado, Teofilo Mendoza, Dani Sibayan, Ramon Doplon, Jordan Arabejo. The exhibit runs until June 20. Call 288-9752.



"WALLFLOWER !" by Elaine Roberto-Navas at West Gallery

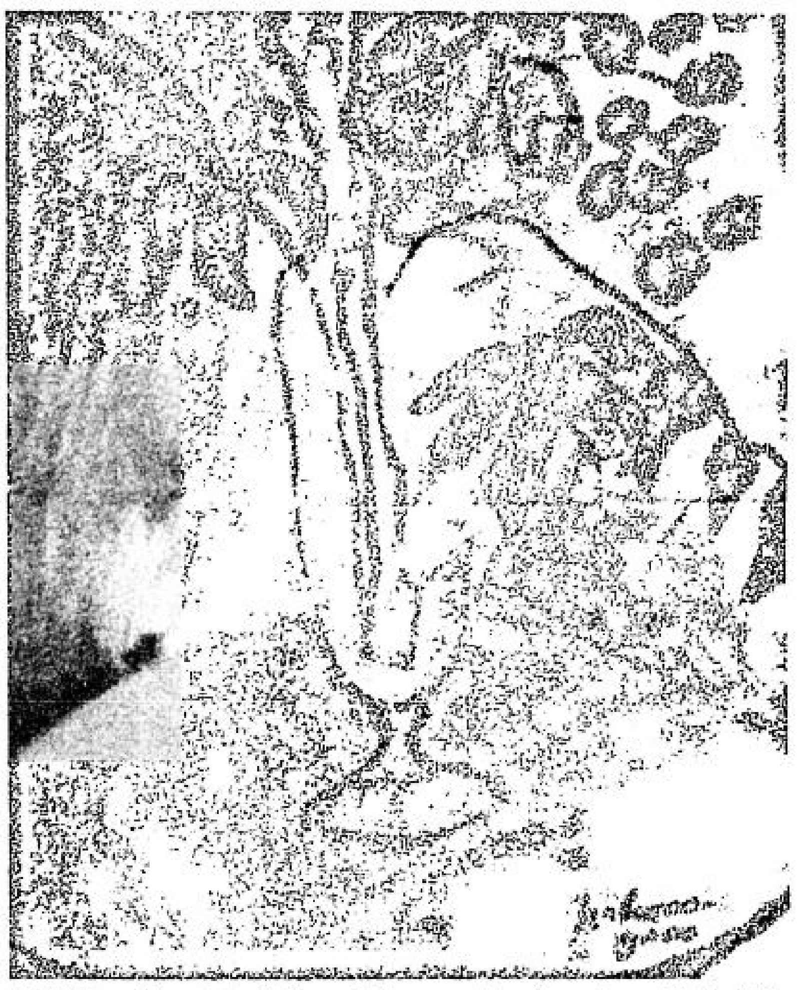
WOMEN ARTISTS AT SURROUNDED BY WATER. "Sober Playthings," an exhibit featuring the works of Corinne Ching, Lyra Abueg Garcellano, Nona Garcia and Topel Lee is running at the main gallery of the artist-run space Surrounded By Water, 187-A Arle Square, The Pied Piper Place, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Call 724-2027.

FILIPINO ARTIST IN EUROPE EXHIBIT. "Europa Vernissage" presents five noted Filipino artists Nemiranda, Eghai Roxas, Pancho Piano, Joe Datuin and Tommy Aquino in an exhibit at the Vienna International Center in Austria on June 12, Independence Day. The exhibit will move to the Rathaus of Austria on June 17. On June 24, the five artists will go to Paris for an exhibit at the Philippine Embassy. The next stop is Berlin where they are expected on July 5. "Europa Vernissage" projects Filipino modern art in all its complexities and inspires viewers to reflect on the values and sensibilities that art offers

BUENDIA AT LEGACY ART GALLERY. Legacy Art Gallery presents 14 artworks of Benny Buendia. Paying homage to National Artist Fernando Amorsolo's provincial scenes, Buendia once again illustrates his mastery of realistic paintings. The exhibit runs until June 15 at Legacy Art Gallery, 3/L Glorietta 4, Makati City.

YANSON AT THE NEGROS MUSEUM. Artist-poet Revo Yanson will open his latest one-man show dubbed "Fragile" at the Gallery Blanco of the Negros Museum on June 14. Revo's combination of mixed media painting and free verse poetry reveal the artist's fascination with human psyche and emotions. The exhibit will run until June 30. Call (034) 434 5552 or 433-4764.

INDAY Cadapan, Antonio Doctor Garcia and Gil Sermeno pay tribute to Filipino heroes during the 103rd anniversary of Philippine Independence. Dubbed "Heroes of Independence," the exhibit will run from June 11-30 at Silahis Arts and Artifacts, 3/F Glorietta 4, Makati City. Shown are Sermeno's sculptures depicting Gregoria de Jesus attending to a wounded Katipunero. Call 728-4961 or 527-2113.



"RED Bows" by Letty Velasco-Guiao, on view from June 16-30 at the Black Forest Café and Restaurant, 572 Engracia Reyes corner Maria Orosa Sts., Manila.

Peruvian paintings open the eyes to a world like our own

By Constantino C. Tejero

SOME things we share with the Peruvians: A precolonial grandeur, a history of Spanish subjugation and a dark Catholicism that celebrates death as well as life's exuberances.

This cultural link can be seen in the contemporary Peruvian paintings at the Catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. The Embassy of Peru, in cooperation with Instituto Cervantes, showcases 36 Peruvian artists in this exhibit titled "Circunstancias de la Vida (Life Circumstances)," ongoing until June 16.

The artworks range from the most ferocious colors to the earthiest tones to the most lachrymose hues. They range from the realist to the symbolist, from the surrealist to the expressionist, to academic classicism, the naif and the overtly decorative.

Though their styles greatly vary, each piece reflects the reality of that country: Its prehistoric past, its colonial history, its chaotic present and what could be an apocalyptic future that's globally shared. One can see then that even their contemporary artmaking is like our own, from techniques to themes of spiritual crises.

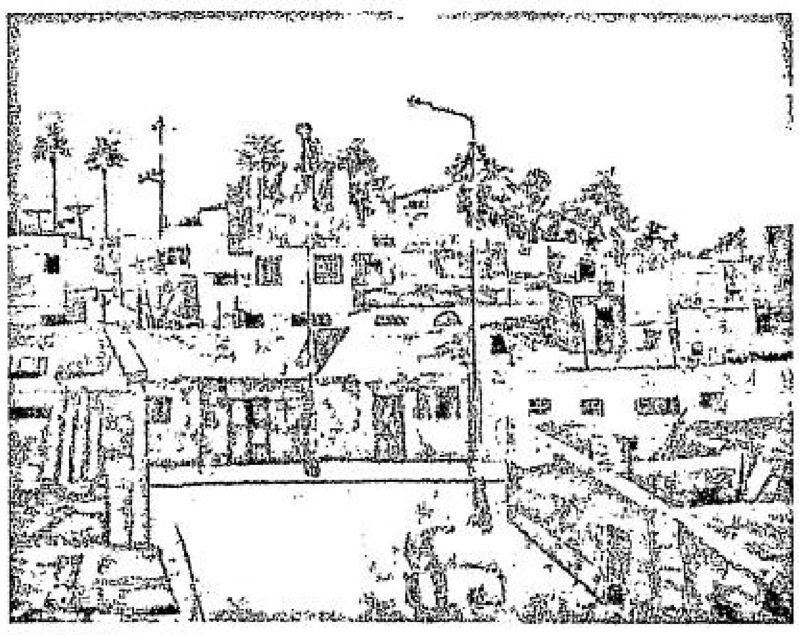
José Antonfo Gómez Hernandez's "Carnival," 120 cm x 150 cm, oil on canvas, is dominated by black, brown and red, the tiny figures set against the blank planes of a black wall and a red carpet.

We see three chessboards scattered around. A mystery man clad in what could be prison uniform is calmly perched on a red tightrope, observing what's going on below, where we see a bride and her groom huddling with a clown, a soldier, an Indian, and Superman.

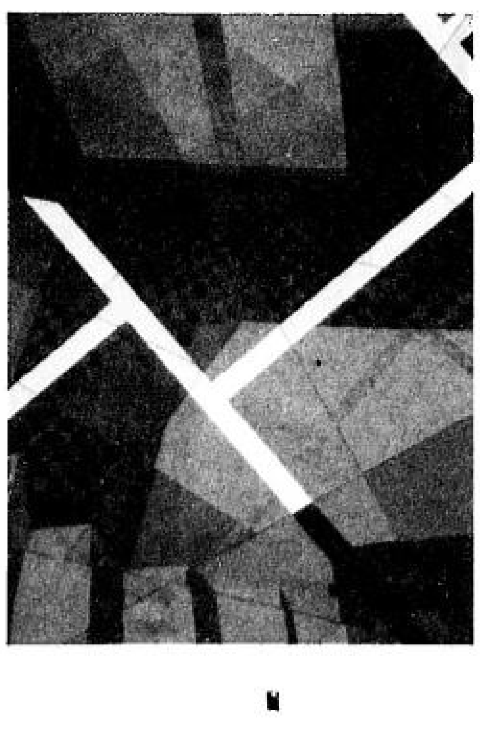
Despite the title, the whole composition looks sinister instead of festive. We allow that this may be a social-realist allegory, but the image seems to have risen from the dark recesses of the id.

Lia Valdivia Melendez's "Inhabitants of an Unknown Country," 100 cm x 100 cm, oil, is dominated by various shades of blue and green, with dashes of black, beige, ochre, red.

It's a fascinating piece, as it is figurative with naif tendencies yet it looks more like an abstraction. Again, this could be some social commentary, but the title itself points to the dark region of the mind.



"SMALL Park" by Gladys Luz Loayza Morales



"UNTITLED" by Lucy Rocio Espilco Barrera

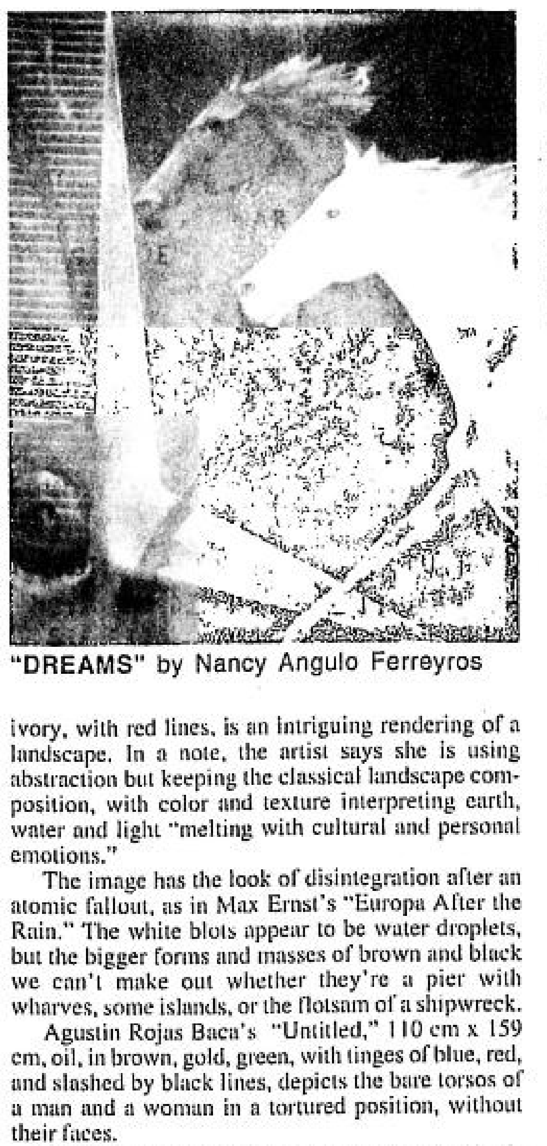
Violent protest art

Katty Kanashiro Ysa's "Untitled," 120 cm x 150 cm, oil on canvas, done in ochre, tobacco, black, ivory, with red lines, is an intriguing rendering of a landscape. In a note, the artist says she is using abstraction but keeping the classical landscape composition, with color and texture interpreting earth, water and light "melting with cultural and personal emotions."

The image has the look of disintegration after an atomic fallout, as in Max Ernst's "Europa After the Rain." The white blots appear to be water droplets, but the bigger forms and masses of brown and black we can't make out whether they're a pier with wharves, some islands, or the flotsam of a shipwreck.

Agustin Rojas Baca's "Untitled," 110 cm x 159 cm, oil, in brown, gold, green, with tinges of blue, red, and slashed by black lines, depicts the bare torsos of a man and a woman in a tortured position, without their faces.

The artist says that with this composition he is "denouncing the daily drama in human relationships by using the body, exaggerating its movements, concentrating all strength and violence." The erotic is here subsumed to the whiplash of domestic violence.



"DREAMS" by Nancy Angulo Ferreyros

Marco Antonfo Valeriano Marzano's "Sub-Graffiti I," 98 cm x 80 cm, acrylic, in black and white, with touches of brown and gray, looks like a small "Guernica."

It is a cityscape of squares and rectangles and graffiti such as *"El bocon," "anda," " suelto"* scattered with rudimentary line drawings of four open-mouthed persons surrounding a bull, obviously screaming in pain or protest. Picasso's tortured horse is here as a bull with horns whitely agleam like daggers, while in lieu of the light bulb is an empty pot exploding. This is another artwork as a form of protest, an act of aggression.

Inevitable references

Gladys Luz Loayza Morales' "Small Park," 119 cm x 100 cm, oil, is a drab street scene of brown tenements and gray-green crowns of trees and palm fronds in the skyline. A pervasive sense of dusty dilapidation hangs in the still air. You look in vain for that *parque bajo* because what's shown you is nothing but a dead end. (To us, this is the most damning piece in the whole exhibit.)

There's a lot more to fill the eyes. Aside from oil, the mixed-media pieces use anything as varied as assorted textiles, stucco, even sawdust and soil. The forms and figures are mostly harsh and hard-edged, the colors strong and solid, one would think pastel is unnatural in Peruvian surroundings.

There are the inevitable references to the Lost City of the Incas, ritual magic and indigenous symbolism, the conquistadors, horses as an element of dreams, Amazon plants and animals, mythical figures, pre-Columbian masks, the Peruvian sun and the Andean soil, the sea breeze of Chorillos or Barranco, motifs from pre-Inca cultures, the cave paintings of Quellkatani, the recurring chessboard pattern.

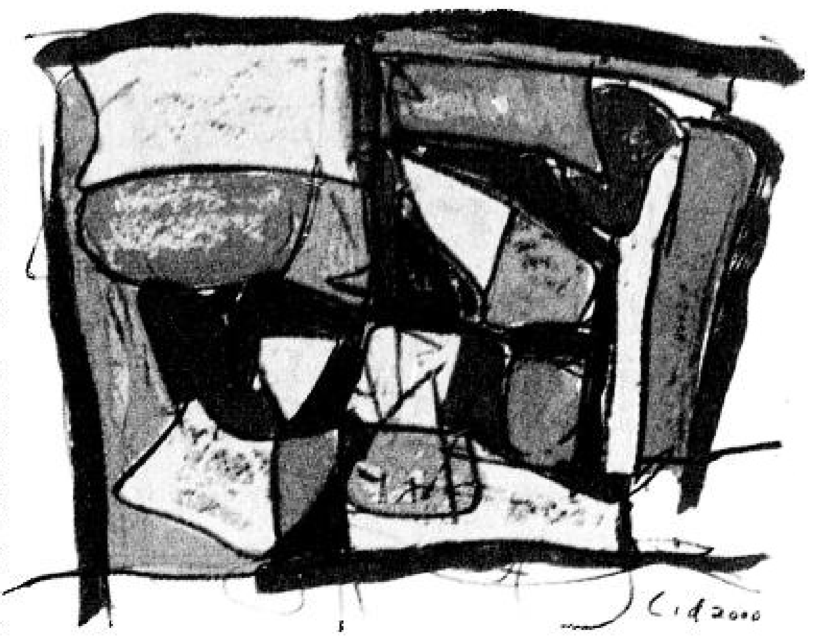
But there are also still lifes of fruits and food and utensils (though with a dead pigeon), chairs, stairs and tables, 1960s-style op art, pop icons such as Batman and Superman, vivid visualizations of the workings of the subconscious.

Reading a passage from a note posted on the white wall of the exhibition space at the Metropolitan Museum, we confirmed what we'd been suspecting all along: "Contemporary artists from Peru and the Philippines respond to common themes and issues such as the self, gender, religion, economic conditions, the colonial experience and the environment."

In short, artists anywhere in the world are humans, too.

A critic returns to first love

BY GINO DORMIENDO



THOUGH he is better known as an art critic and the author of several art books, Cid Reyes actually began his professional life as an artist. He had his first solo show way back in 1969, at age 23, of colorful abstract pieces emulative of Mark Rothko and Helen Frankenthaler. This was followed by another show at the Solidaridad in 1970. In 1972, he had yet another exhibit at the Hyatt, a phenomenal sell-out show, courtesy of Imelda Marcos, who bought nearly all the pieces as gifts to her jet-setting friends who wanted a good sampling of Philippine abstract art.

In 1976, while living in London, long after his British Council scholarship had ended, Reyes held a much-talked-about exhibit, in absentia, of collages called "Dikit-Dikit," consisting of cutout pieces of paper which sought their predestined places in space as he later meant them to be gilled in place. The critics were impressed.

Since that time, however, Reyes virtually put a halt to his painting life as he embarked on a new career as critic. He was apparently emboldened when he became the AAP Art Critic of the Year in 1979. Meanwhile, he had also joined the advertising world, where he would rise to become the top creative honcho of a multinational ad corporation.

'Offering'

After 20 years, the artist-turned-critic has finally returned to his first love, his first show in over two decades, proving once and for all that despite the hiatus, his creative faculties have not diminished a bit. The show, titled "Handumanan" (which means "offering" in Ilonggo), is so named after his wife's birthplace, a town near Mt. Kanlaon in Negros Occidental. It is also the artist's personal offering to three Filipino artists—H.R. Ocampo, Jose Joya and Lee Aguinaldo—who made possible the birth and flowering of a Philippine-type abstraction which Reyes describes, "vitalized by Western influences but imbued with an indigenous feeling for shape and color."

The show (Drawing Room, until June 20) may be considered modest in scope, with only a dozen pieces on view, but it should be seen to gauge how Reyes' original career as artist has developed, or taken off, from the time of his last show more than 20 years ago, regrettably a long time to be away from the scene.

Reyes has long been a proponent of abstract expressionism, from the time he first ventured in art with his planar-geometric design paintings that betrayed an indigenous motif emblematic of the color of ethnic vintas.

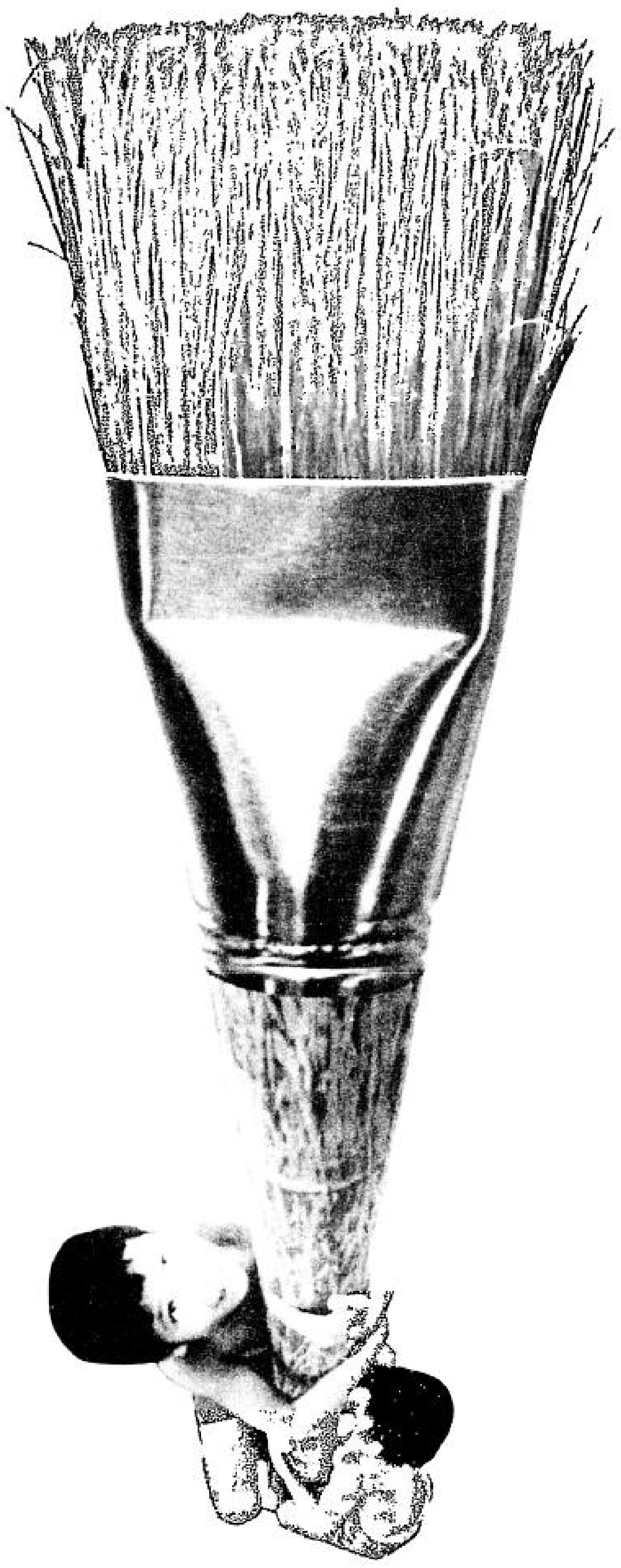
He equally favored the strong permutations of color to take over his canvases, allowing flicked-on texturologies, as the late Leo Benesa calls it, of color in the spirit of Pollock and Mathieu, in the manner of Lee Aguinaldo's early works.

Joyous

The works, indeed, recall the joyous sensibility suffusing the works of the three vanguards of abstractionism in the country and the colorful evolution of Philippine modern art in the last half century. Reyes works in patches of color, predominantly of warm, exhilarating tones, executed in a mix of tempera and gouache, crayon and charcoal. The feelings they evoke are equally varied, ranging from the purely whimsical to the truly sublime.

Here, we see Reyes' penchant for incorporating his fascination with calligraphy as he literally reconnects the Western mode of geometric forms with swirls of line around the grid, evoking an Oriental or Asian temperament. The layering creates textural effects that have been conceived not on a preconceived design, but perhaps more on elegance, an intuitive element that has become an integral part of Reyes' evolving abstract vocabulary.

The works are rendered mostly in linear composition—hence the identical title "Linear Series" with just the code number to guide us through the exhibit. They exude a festive, celebratory air, which is in keeping with the artist's homage to the triumvirate of abstract artists. The richly hued compositions laid out in equally diverse forms celebrate a major event in the artist's colorful life, and the equally colorful apotheosis of Philippine abstract art which, more than 50 years since its introduction into the country, remains alive and well, and teeming with possibilities.



ARTPETRON
1st National
Student Art Competition

The overall theme for this competition is :

Lumang Laro, Bagong Likha

Petron Corporation is proud to announce its first painting competition ever held - *ArtPetron: The 1st National Student Art Competition!* We invite college students from all over the country to submit oil and watercolor artworks depicting children playing Filipino games of yore! In this age of cyber reality, relive a lost era of *tumbang preso* and *patintero* days!

Rediscover the joy of flying a [illegible] *trumpo!* Allow us to take a pee[illegible] special games children play! Be[illegible] Capture it on canvass to be re[illegible] Send us your entries soon!

Some Filipino indigenous games are the following :

Palo Sebo
Step - No
Kandirit
Shato
Chinese Garter
Saranggola
Bugtungan
Arawan
Juego de Anillo *(ring in a string)*
Karerang Lata
Luksong Tinik
Luksong Baka
Luksong Lubid
Patintero
Pitik - Bulag
Anino *(shadow tag)*
Araw - Lilim *(sun-shade)*
Aswang - Aswang *(witch tag)*
Basket ng Prutas *(basket of fruits)*
Buwan - Buwan *(moon - moon)*
Kambing - Kambing *(goat - goat)*
Dakpanay *(Bis-in and out of circles)*
Ginto - Ginto *(gold - gold)*
Habulan *(tag chase)*
Kapitang Bakod *(wood tag)*
Lagundi *(head tag)*
Nadipahan Ka *(touched with outstretched arms)*
Ora - Ora Comanching *(witch's stick tag)*
Pan - Caon - Caons *(Bis.-chase inside a circle)*
Tumbang Preso *(knock the can down)*

See application forms for more !

A. Rules and Regulations

1. The overall theme for this painting competition is **"Lumang Laro, Bagong Likha."** Entries must feature children playing a Filipino indigenous game and must capture vivid expressions of joy, triumph, determination, and vigor. Portrayal of rarely-featured Filipino games is encouraged. The paintings must point out values such as fairness, healthy competition, team spirit, and cooperation. Since some of the winning works will be included in Petron's 2002 calendar, all entered artworks must not be in abstract form and must be signed by the artist.
2. The painting competition is open to all Filipino college students and students of art whether in a university program or a tutorial or museum-based painting class.
   - Application forms are available at all colleges, universities, nearest Petron Service Centers, or at the Project Secretariat Office c/o Studio 5 Designs, 28 Paseo de Roxas corner Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, 1209, Makati City.
   - The participating student must be of good standing and of good moral character. A letter of recommendation of good moral character from the respective deans or art teacher must be attached to the application form.
   - Application forms must be validated by the respective dean of the college or university or the art teacher of tutorial or museum-based painting class.
3. The application forms must be accompanied by a duly-accomplished affidavit as provided.

B. Categories

1. This painting competition has two (2) contest categories:

A. Watercolor
- The surface to be used for this category shall be watercolor paper or illustration board.
- The official size for this category shall not be less than 22 x 29 inches, not more than 55 x 75 inches (unframed)

B. Oil / Acrylic
- The surface to be used for this category shall either be canvass, canvass paper, or wood.
- The official size for this category shall not be more than 4 ft. x 4 ft. (unframed)

2. All entries must be original and not have been previously exhibited or revised or awarded a prize in another contest.

C. Submission Mechanics

1. Submission of all entries will be until July 25, 2001 at the Project Secretariat Office c/o Studio 5 Designs.
2. All entered artwork must be properly labeled with the following:
   - Category
   - Artist (name, address & telephone, cellular phone, pager or fax. nos., and e-mail address)
   - Title of Entry
   - Medium/Description
   - Dimensions
   - Date of Completion
   - Selling Price of Entry
3. All applicants must submit the following documents:
   - a brief curriculum vitae/bio-data
   - three (3) 2"x2"colored ID photo with the applicant's name at the back
   - a sketch of the entry
4. Participants are limited to submitting only one entry per category.
5. Preliminary judging will be scheduled on August 15, 2001.

D. Awarding Mechanics

1. Thirty (30) semifinalists will be exhibited at the Petron Mega Plaza on September 07, 2001.
2. Criteria for judging are the following:
   - originality of game featured (30%)
   - rendition (50%)
   - overall impact (20%)
3. Awards: There will be three (3) winners from each Category who will receive Php 50,000.00 each and a trophy. Meanwhile, six (6) Runners-up, three (3) for each category, will receive Php 20,000.00 each and a Certificate of Recognition.
   - The schools or museum-based class of the first prize-winners will receive a computer set with printer and scanner.
   - All qualified participating artists will be given Certificates of Appreciation.

See posters and application forms for more information.

Application Forms are available at all Petron Service Stations, colleges and universities nationwide. For inquiries, you may call our **Project Secretariat Office c/o Studio 5 Designs,** 28 Paseo de Roxas cor. Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, 1209, Makati City. Tel. Nos.: 8953971 • 8909318. **E-mail: studio5designsinc@yahoo.com**

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HSBC will raffle off one FREE trip to Hong Kong on every single banking day starting July 17 to September 3 -- that's plenty of trips for you to win! Starting June 3, use your Visa or MasterCard from HSBC as much as you can. Your raffle entries will keep adding up and will be eligible for all the daily draws. You can even win everyday!

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A book to remind us of heritage of freedom

Visions of the Possible, Legacies of Philippine Freedom
By Felice Sta. Maria
Studio 5 Designs Inc.

BY JOHN SILVA

REVIEW

THIS year's commemoration of Independence Day will be markedly different than those of recent years. The impeachment trial leading to People Power II, the ouster of a president, his arrest and subsequent counter-protest leading to the siege of Malacañang Palace, the declaration of a state of rebellion, and an election fraught with fraud and chicanery, should give us all serious pause and reflection for this year's commemoration.

Reading "Visions of the Possible, Legacies of Philippine Freedom" (published by Studio 5 Designs Inc.) in these somber times has been both inspirational and bittersweet. The recent tumble of events can be linked to our attempt, albeit interrupted, at gaining independence over a century ago. Regaining our sovereignty in 1946, retaining an iniquitous relationship between classes and, as author Felice Sta. Maria writes, succumbing to a "flirtation with authoritarianism," events of the past six months have revealed a marked fissure between the vision of past heroes and the aspirations of society today.

Independence goals

Sta. Maria has written a series of essays, fitted to a historical time frame, spanning early notions of acquiring independence (the first chapter titled "Seeking to be Free"), citing leaders who took up arms ("Leading to be Free"), presenting materials attesting to our independence goals ("Documents of Freedom"), historical sites engendering our cause ("Monuments to Freedom"), cultural expressions devoted to the cause ("Arts for Freedom") and a revisiting of our early aspirations ("Living to be Free").

The essays are supplemented by lavish spreads of superbly reproduced historical photographs, postcards, stamps, paintings, drawings, political material and an assortment of memorabilia.

Emilio Jacinto's poem titled "Kalayaan" achieves greater intensity when a page is devoted to a photograph of the actual poem in Jacinto's youthful handwriting.

The pictorial face of the sun, masonic in origin and embossed on medals, charms, buttons, seals and stamps underscores its "all-knowing" symbolism which words fail to describe.

Clear reproduced photographs, from a serene Jose Rizal to the only known photograph of Andres Bonifacio to generals of the revolutionary army and to individual portraits of Malolos Congress delegates give the reader a sweeping view of the noble demeanor evident in our pantheon of heroes.

A closeup of our first sewn Filipino flag, a detail of the first page of the original "El Filibusterismo" manuscript, the elegant signatures of the signatories to the Proclamation of Independence and the original sheet music of the National Anthem instills a reverence to historical material.

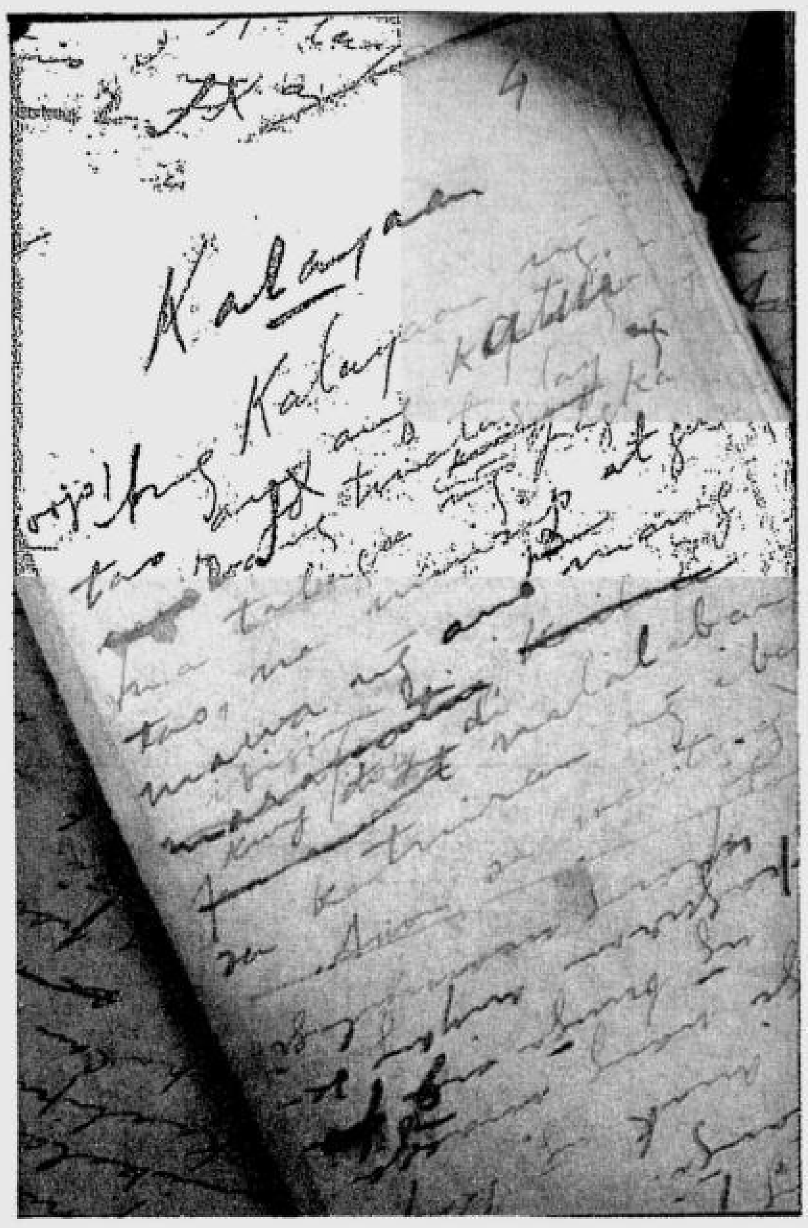
No small feat

The painstaking task of borrowing and securing these historical materials—culled from various sources laid on ancient wood as backdrop, carefully photographed as complementary illustrations to Sta. Maria's essays—is no small feat. The vast array of materials illustrated in this book proves that despite wars and natural catastrophes, there are private collectors institutions and government agencies who have been unfailing in preserving patrimony.

Aside from historical rendering, Sta. Maria, an educator, highlights the values stated or inherent in the writings of our patriots. Values such as justice, righteousness, well-being, mutual respect, among others, are recalled and given Filipino word equivalents. "Freedom," for example, translated into Filipino as "*kalayaan*," resonates deeper in the Filipino psyche, adding levels of meaning, nuances and subconscious stirrings.

In a pamphlet, "To the Katipunan," dated July 15, 1898, Emilio Aguinaldo ends his address to his compatriots with a simple but valuable admonition so pertinent to the times: "Finally, avoid as far as possible, sacking, plundering, robbing and deceiving; these things destroy our credit and hurt us much before other nations and injure tranquility. And I hold prepared for those who forget their own honor and have re-

A BOOK/ p.E3



MANUSCRIPT of Emilio Jacinto's "Kalayaan"

> Despite the appeal for preservation of our heritage sites, Rizal's home in Dapitan is a shameful disgrace, with filth all over, including campaign posters of a convicted child rapist

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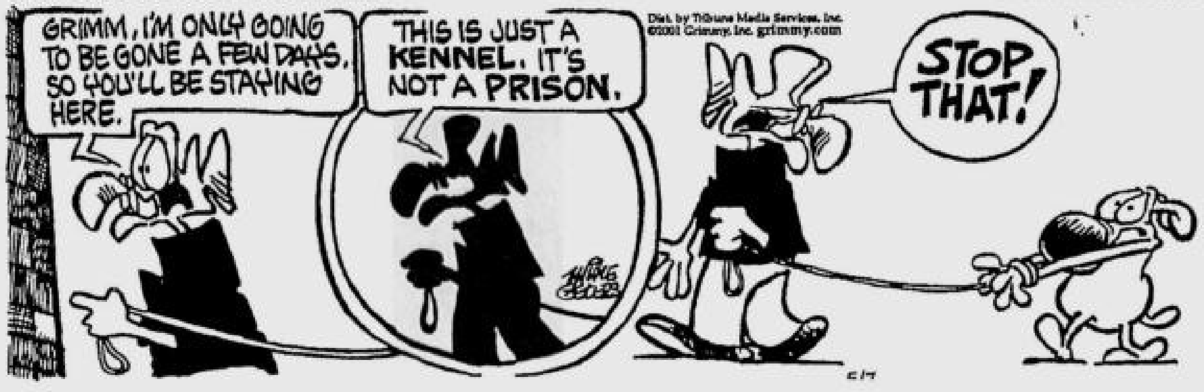
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, I'M ONLY GOING TO BE GONE A FEW DAYS, SO YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE.
THIS IS JUST A KENNEL. IT'S NOT A PRISON.
STOP THAT!
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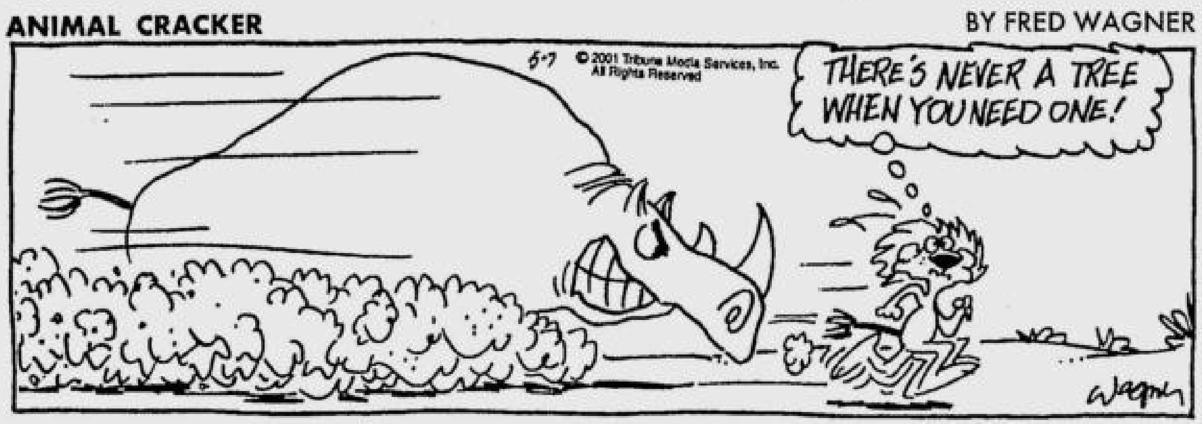
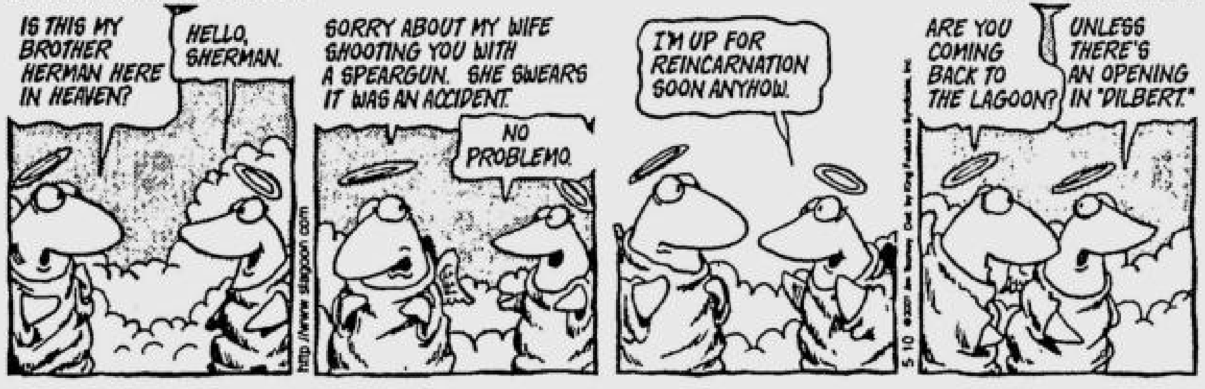
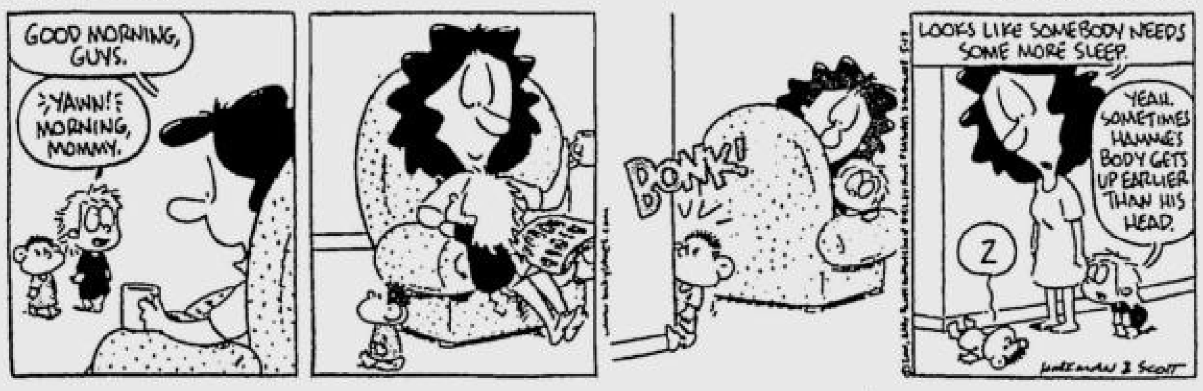
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


5-7 © 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
THERE'S NEVER A TREE WHEN YOU NEED ONE!
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


IS THIS MY BROTHER HERMAN HERE IN HEAVEN?
HELLO, SHERMAN.
SORRY ABOUT MY WIFE SHOOTING YOU WITH A SPEARGUN. SHE SWEARS IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
NO PROBLEMO.
I'M UP FOR REINCARNATION SOON ANYHOW.
ARE YOU COMING BACK TO THE LAGOON?
UNLESS THERE'S AN OPENING IN "DILBERT."
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


GOOD MORNING, GUYS.
YAWN! MORNING, MOMMY.
BONK!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY NEEDS SOME MORE SLEEP.
YEAH. SOMETIMES HAMMIE'S BODY GETS UP EARLIER THAN HIS HEAD.
Z
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gene Wilder, Jacques Cousteau, Joe Montana, Vince Lombardi, Adrienne Barbeau, Joshua Jackson

Happy Birthday: Go after what you want and refuse to let anything stop you from attaining your goals. This could turn out to be a very romantic year for you. Travel, adventure and excitement are all within reach. It's time to take action and concentrate on those things that will bring the highest returns. Your numbers: 9, 13, 27, 39, 41, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become depressed about events at work. Do your job and start looking for ways to make money working for yourself. Set your entrepreneurial side free to explore.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to meet more individuals who share your interests. Don't be alarmed if a recent love connection didn't turn out the way you had hoped.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Making yourself indispensable at work by doing all the little extras will lead to a power-position. Add creative flare and disciplined detail to your daily work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need some time off with with your lover. Get to know each other all over again before you're just another statistic. It's been too easy to take one another for granted lately.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll make some extra cash if you invest in new domestic products. Your partner won't want to be involved in risky ventures, so don't jeopardize family funds. Put your own extra cash on the line.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Let down your guard and get in touch with your lover. You've been living in a dream world for too long. Confront any problems and you can take the relationship to higher levels.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can stabilize your place in the work force. Use your creative ideas to come up with a better, more efficient approach to your job. Superiors will be most impressed with your ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What a wonderful life—or is it? Don't fool yourself just because everything appears to be going your way. Take a look around: Resentment may be building.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be aware of your present situation but if you don't do something about it, you stand to lose. Problems won't go away just because you ignore them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be afraid to ask for help. Friends or relatives can be relied upon to pitch in and assist with your current battle. Take heed of the advice given by elders.

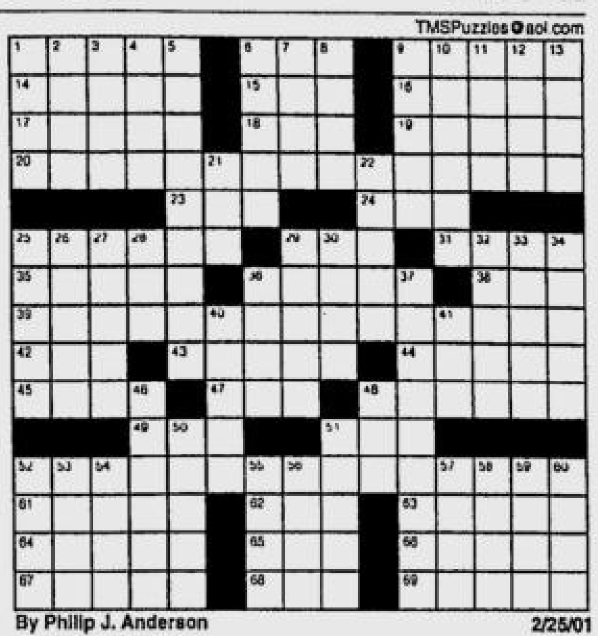
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Older members of the family want you to bend to their needs. Be careful. They may be asking the impossible. Don't try to take care of these matters by yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be depressed if your partner is being verbally abusive. Don't limit yourself if someone you live with is standing in the way. Tell him or her to move.

Birthday Baby: You have an inquisitive mind and a desire to learn. Your ability to come up with all sorts of creative ideas and solutions to problems will result in popularity and admiration

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

2/25/01

ACROSS
1 Plant swelling
6 Poker take
9 Milk not to cry over?
14 Bona fide
15 Eisenhower
16 Sgt. Bilko
17 January in Juarez
18 "The Delta of Venus" writer
19 Microsoft's man
20 Cause of a business union?
23 Gore and Capp
24 Spike or Peggy
25 Sense of taste
29 Thai Buddhist
31 Cloth scraps
35 Video-game company
36 Pool play
38 4 on the phone
39 Cause of a business union?
42 Part of the U.K.
43 U.S.-Mex.-Can. union
44 Dress shape
45 Ooze
47 Two-finger gesture
48 Maps in maps
49 Burrows or Fortas
51 Along in years
52 Cause of a business union?
61 Forest quaker
62 Notes of scales
63 Pampas lasso
64 Hurled
65 Wrath
66 Select few
67 Basketball game
68 Annapolis grad
69 Force units

DOWN
1 Mr. Knievel
2 Laertes, e.g.
3 Hgt.
4 Stick in the mud
5 Worship
6 Sonar sounds
7 Dust Bowl migrant
8 Cultivate
9 Smooth transition
10 Supplication
11 Centerward
12 In __ of
13 Try out
21 Quaff at the Queen's Head
22 Blossom
25 Walks to and fro
26 Make right
27 Colossal
28 French avant-garde artist
29 Alternative to cappuccino
30 Locality
32 Texas A&M student
33 Flemish capital
34 Fathers
36 Coffee shop
37 Wandered
40 Separate
41 "Kidnapped" author's initials
46 Communion plates
48 Kind
50 Spree
51 Caravan rests
52 Hodgepodge
54 Stimulus
55 Niagara's source
56 Gull's cousin
57 Greasy
58 Conceited
59 End of din?
60 Dawn Chong and Carruth

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

N	A	T	S		S	P	E	A	K	S		W	E	B
B	O	R	U		W	E	D	G	I	E		A	R	E
C	L	U	B	H	E	A	D	E	N	D		T	I	N
			T	I	A	R	A		D	I	R	E	C	T
A	P	L	E	N	T	Y		E	L	L	E	R		
B	L	O	N	D	E		G	R	E	E	N	T	E	A
R	E	A	D		R	E	A	R	S		T	E	L	L
O	A	F				R	U	E				S	A	E
A	S	E	A		M	I	N	D	S		S	T	I	R
D	E	R	E	L	I	C	T		A	S	C	E	N	T
		F	R	O	S	H		A	N	T	A	R	E	S
C	A	R	O	L	S		E	L	D	E	R			
I	D	O		L	I	T	T	L	E	P	I	G	G	Y
T	E	N		E	L	A	T	E	R		E	P	E	E
E	N	T		D	E	C	A	Y	S		R	A	M	S

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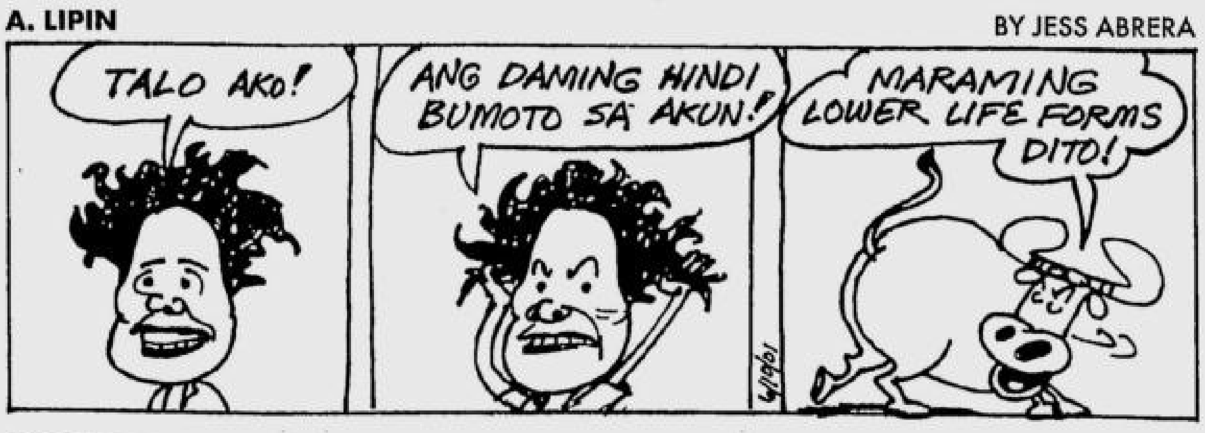
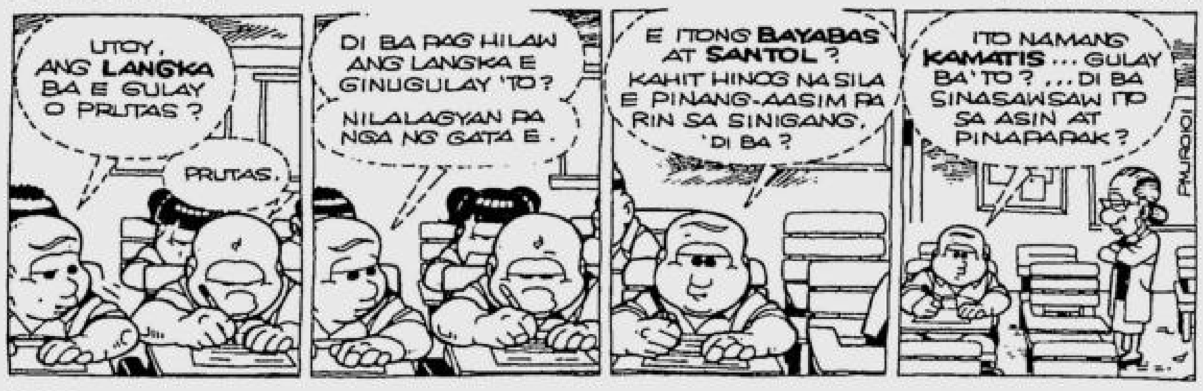
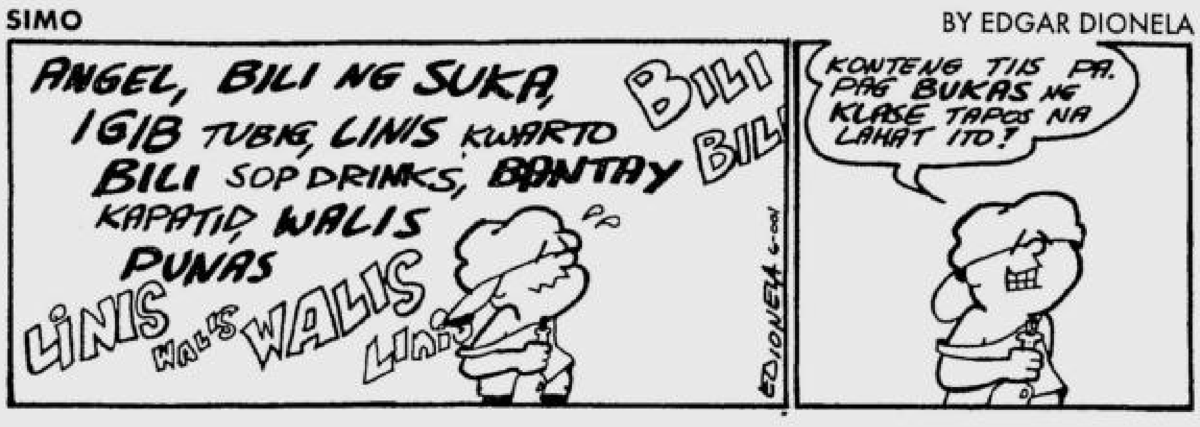
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


TALO AKO!
ANG DAMING HINDI BUMOTO SA AKIN!
MARAMING LOWER LIFE FORMS DITO!
6/19/01

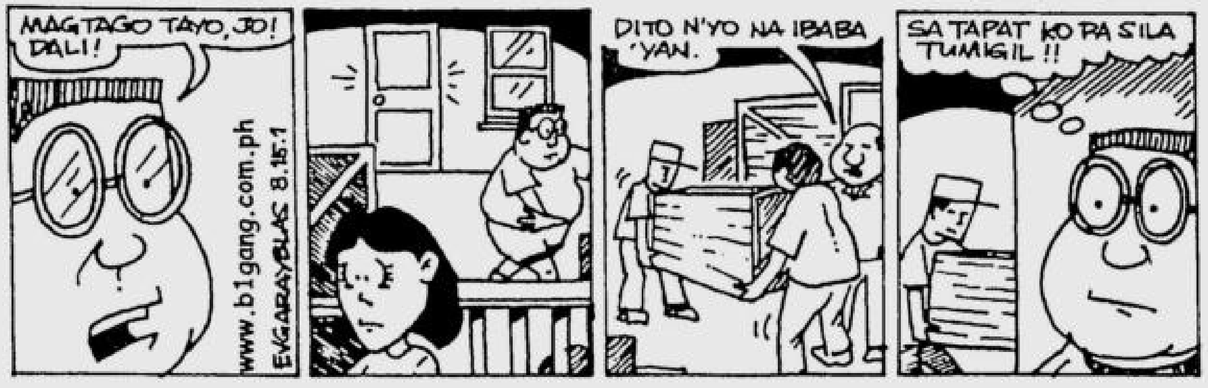
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


UTOY, ANG LANGKA BA E GULAY O PRUTAS?
PRUTAS.
DI BA PAG HILAW ANG LANGKA E GINUGULAY 'TO?
NILALAGYAN PA NGA NG GATA E.
E ITONG BAYABAS AT SANTOL? KAHIT HINOG NA SILA E PINANG-AASIM PA RIN SA SINIGANG, 'DI BA?
ITO NAMANG KAMATIS ... GULAY BA'TO? ... DI BA SINASAWSAW ITO SA ASIN AT PINAPAPAK?
PMJR2001

SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, BILI NG SUKA, IGIB TUBIG, LINIS KWARTO BILI SOP DRINKS, BANTAY KAPATID, WALIS PUNAS
BILI
BILI
LINIS
WALIS
WALIS
LINIS
KONTENG TIIS PA. PAG BUKAS NG KLASE TAPOS NA LAHAT ITO!
EDIONELA 6-01

B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG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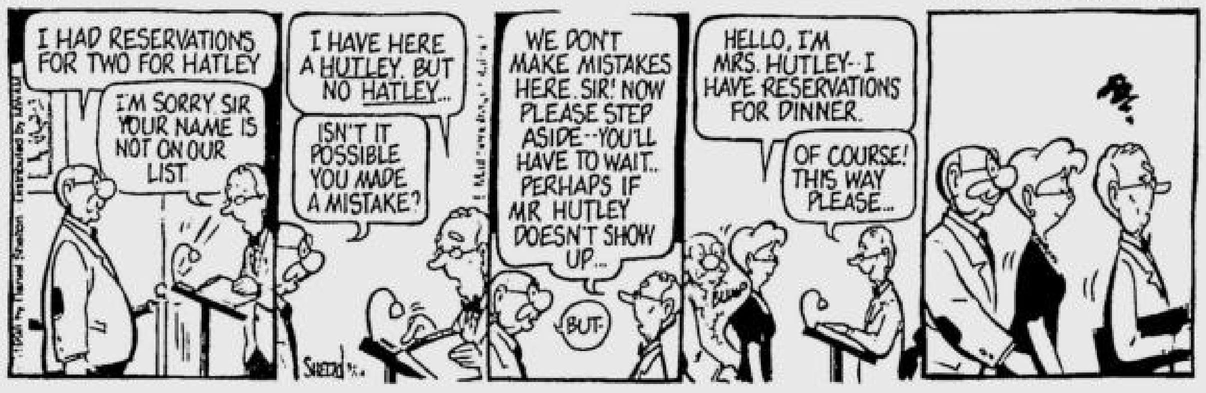
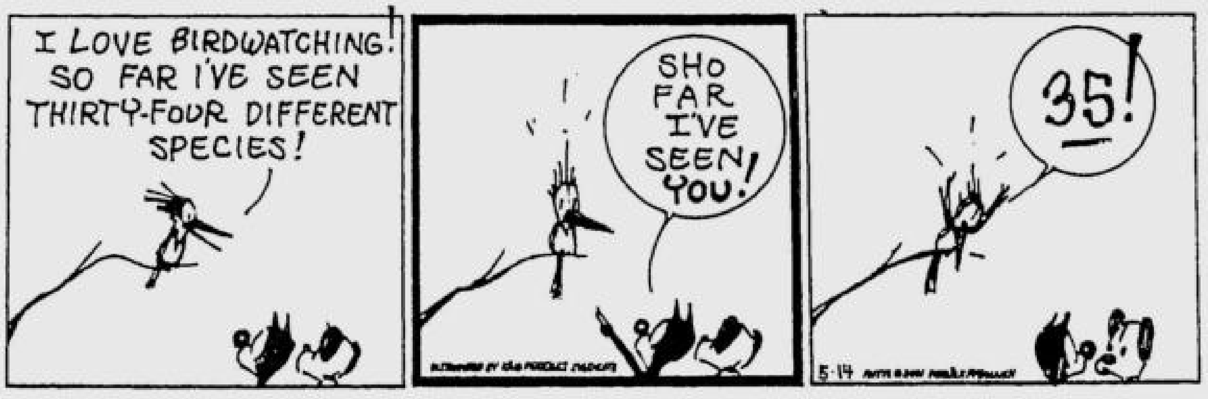
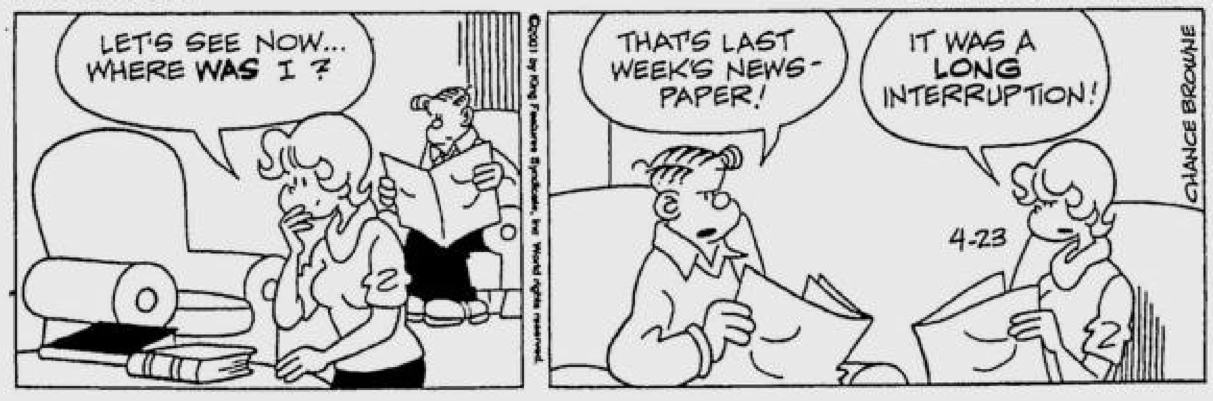
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


I HAD RESERVATIONS FOR TWO FOR HATLEY
I'M SORRY SIR YOUR NAME IS NOT ON OUR LIST
I HAVE HERE A HUTLEY. BUT NO HATLEY...
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE YOU MADE A MISTAKE?
WE DON'T MAKE MISTAKES HERE. SIR! NOW PLEASE STEP ASIDE--YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT.. PERHAPS IF MR HUTLEY DOESN'T SHOW UP...
BUT-
HELLO, I'M MRS. HUTLEY--I HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER.
OF COURSE! THIS WAY PLEASE...
SHELTON

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I LOVE BIRDWATCHING! SO FAR I'VE SEEN THIRTY-FOUR DIFFERENT SPECIES!
SHO FAR I'VE SEEN YOU!
35!
5-14

HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


LET'S SEE NOW... WHERE WAS I ?
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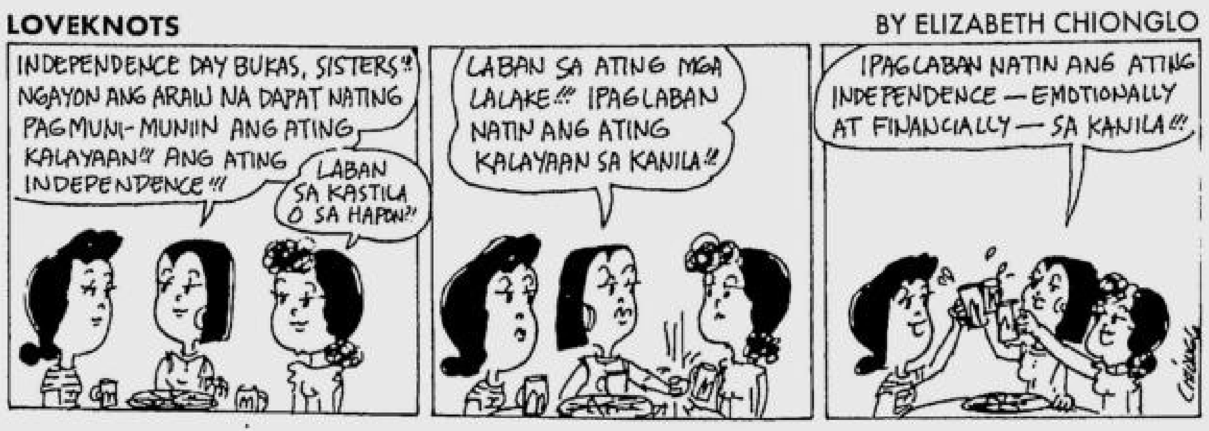
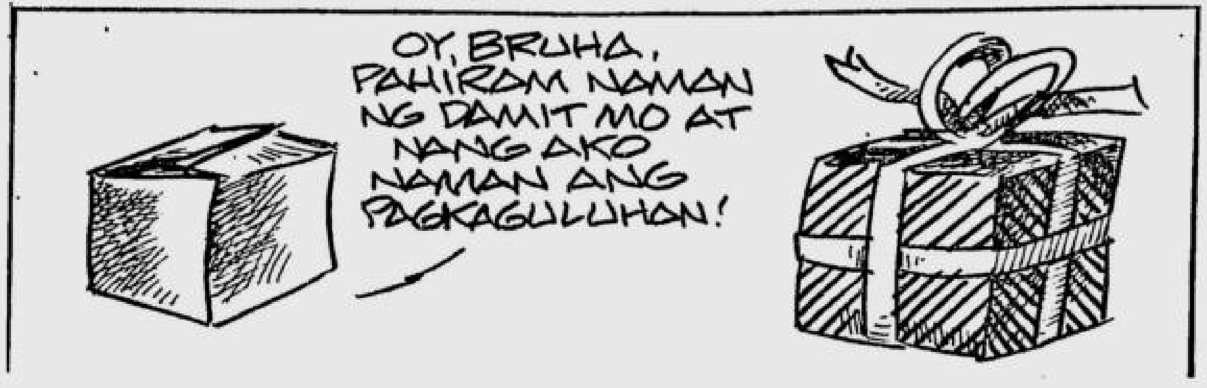
THAT'S LAST WEEK'S NEWSPAPER!
IT WAS A LONG INTERRUPTION!
4-23
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


INDEPENDENCE DAY BUKAS, SISTERS!! NGAYON ANG ARAW NA DAPAT NATING PAGMUNI-MUNIIN ANG ATING KALAYAAN!!! ANG ATING INDEPENDENCE!!!
LABAN SA KASTILA O SA HAPON?
LABAN SA ATING MGA LALAKE!!! IPAGLABAN NATIN ANG ATING KALAYAAN SA KANILA!!
IPAGLABAN NATIN ANG ATING INDEPENDENCE — EMOTIONALLY AT FINANCIALLY — SA KANILA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, BRUHA, PAHIRAM NAMAN NG DAMIT MO AT NANG AKO NAMAN ANG PAGKAGULUHAN!

A book to remind us of heritage of freedom

(From page E1)

course to these evil and dishonorable customs."

A newspaper, Ang Kaibigan Ng Bayan (Friend of the Nation), extols the value of a revolution: "The fruits of struggle are the following:/Lessened is the arrogance of the educated./Lessened is the cruelty of the strong./Learned will be the ignorant/ And increased is the beautiful radiance of the world/ Because the minds of the majority are open."

Emilio Jacinto advises, with prescient economy, both Katipuneros and the current Macapagal-Arroyo administration: "A nation that recognizes and loves right (*matwid*), that supports kindness (*kabaitan*) and values character (*kaasalan*) will not be left to just any ruler, will not fall under the rule of force and fraud, and will not assist an exalted and abominable liar who rules from the summit of heights."

Heritage sites

A significant chapter in the book titled "Monuments to Freedom" highlights 14 heritage sites throughout the country essential to Philippine history. They include Jose Rizal's birthplace in Calamba, Laguna; the founding site of the Katipunan in Binondo, Manila; Rizal's Dapitan exile; the starting site of the Philippine revolution in Pugad, Lawin, QC; site of the first major battle by the revolutionaries, Pinaglabanan, San Juan; site of the first major victory in the revolution, Binakayan, Cavite; Rizal's final incarceration, Fort Santiago, Manila; Rizal's execution site, Luneta, Manila; site of the Tejeros Convention, Rosairo, Cavite; site of Biac-na-Bato negotiations, San Miguel de Mayumo, Bulacan; site where the Filipino flag is first displayed, Imus, Cavite; the Emilio Aguinaldo home and shrines, Kawit, Cavite; site the Filipino flag first flew outside Luzon, Santa Barbara, Iloilo; and the site of the first Philippine Congress, Malolos, Bulacan.

I took "Visions of the Possible" with me to Dapitan to visit for the first time our national hero's home in exile. Rizal's spirit and ardor for his country would not be extinguished with banishment. Rizal founded a school and taught, became a businessman, purchased lands, cleared its forests and planted fruit trees and crops, set up a free health clinic, planned the nearby town's water system, finished a Tagalog grammar book, learned Visayan, collected shell and butterfly specimens and sent to museums abroad, fell in love and wrote poems. And this was just the first of four years of exile. Sta. Maria affirms Rizal's "prodigious intellectual output and community services" while in Dapitan and further adds that the site "... salutes quietude, meditativeness and is a respectful inventive and appropriate response to the existing community and natural environment."

Jalosjos country

Three years after Sta. Maria pens these words, enticing me to Dapitan, I alight from my tricycle in front of an unfinished gate entrance to the national shrine. Campaign posters have inundated all the tree trunks fronting the entrance, some of these trees planted by Rizal himself. The most numerous of the posters are those of Romeo Jalosjos, a convicted child rapist, who is running and will win his congressional seat while in jail. Jalosjos grins from his poster with the words "*Bisag unsaon*, Jalosjos *gihapon* (No matter what, stick with Jalosjos)."

There is a lagoon on the property unfilled with water, lined at the bottom with plastic and now totally covered with garbage. The small reservoir by the side of a hill designed and built by Rizal is murky and littered with empty shampoo wrappers. The ingenious network of bamboo water pipes Rizal used is now replaced by a skinny rusted pipe, leaks tied with a dirty clothe and drips rather than flows. The canal, which Rizal dug leading to the sea, is full of natural and manmade debris.

Statues Rizal made, one of them a bust of his warden/friend Gen. Ricardo Carnicero, stands forlorn, unidentified and filthy by the reservoir. Rizal's own house, except for one bed, is completely bare with no wall text, no directional signs, nothing. It could be anybody's *nipa* house except that it happens to be the reconstructed home of our most esteemed national hero, his family and his beloved Josephine Bracken.

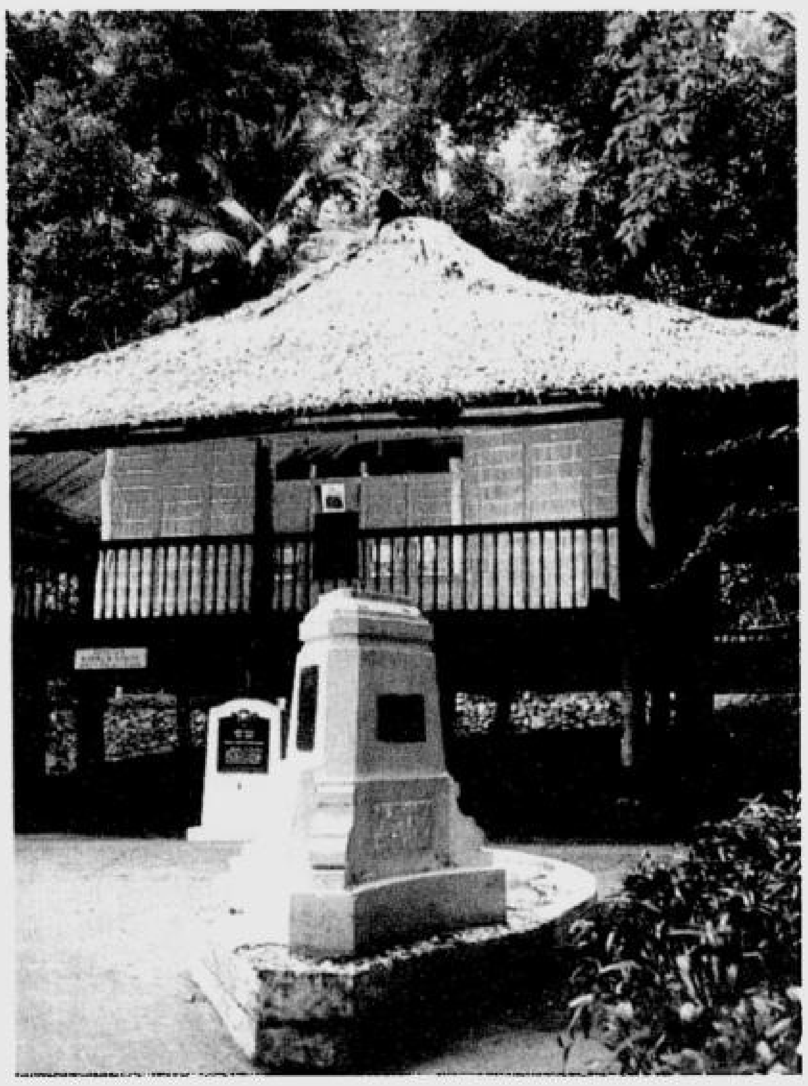
The grounds are unmowed and littered with empty soda cans and ripped potato chip wrappers. By the sea wall ringing the estate, where Rizal and Bracken walked on moonlit nights, there is a pervasive and pungent urine smell. It is because the outdoor toilets are filthy and the plumbing inoperative.

Shameful disgrace

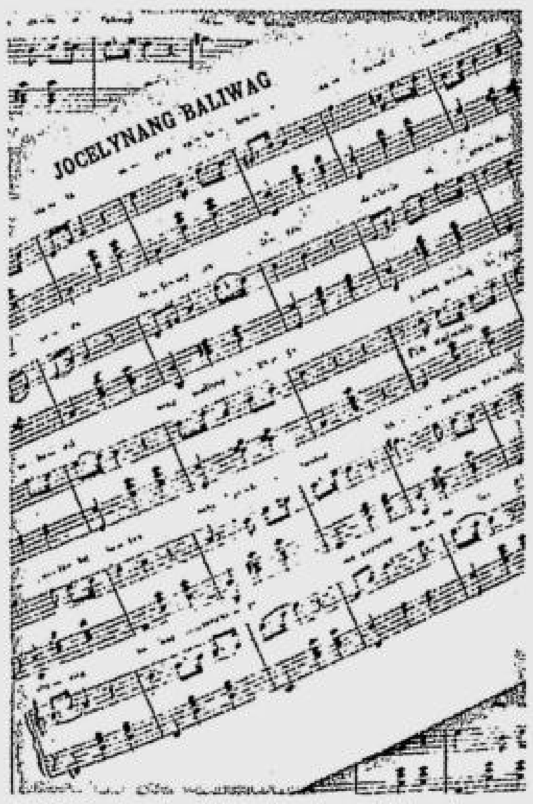
In an unfinished sterile, administration building, there is a pitiful display of blurred and fading photographs of Rizal taken from student to manhood. Old photos of the estate in the '20s and '30s are not captioned and raise even more questions about the authenticity of the grounds.

The Rizal home in exile is a shameful disgrace. It is an unfinished garbage dump, a victim of local politics and national neglect. If this is how a heritage site is maintained, one wonders about the 13 other sites stirringly described in "Visions." Sta. Maria concludes in the chapter that "Monuments are an important reminder that the present will be past, and that foundations laid in the past foretell the future of a nation." The abandonment of our hero's exile site grimly portends our nation's questionable future.

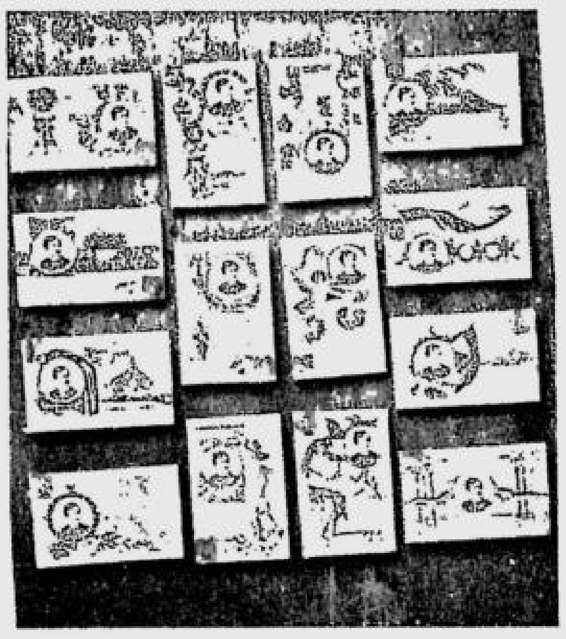
If the external realities of preserving our heritage are lacking and daunting, our solace rests in this coffee-table book, a 1998 Best Book Design finalist. Published in 1998, Sta. Maria's essays and the publisher's adherence to quality printing reflect the zenith of all the best values and aspirations we inherit from our revolutionary forebears and our own desires to continue, expand on and engender these values. As the title implies, the fulfillment of these values is still forthcoming, is still possible. Hopefully, sooner rather than later.



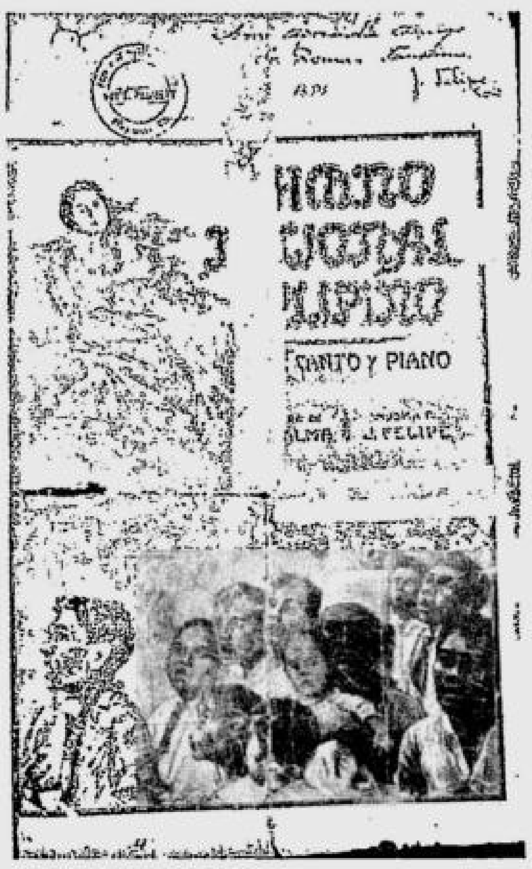
RIZAL'S house during his Dapitan exile



MUSIC sheet of the *kundiman* "Jocelynang Baliwag," which became the song of the Revolution. It was composed by Pepita Tiongson.

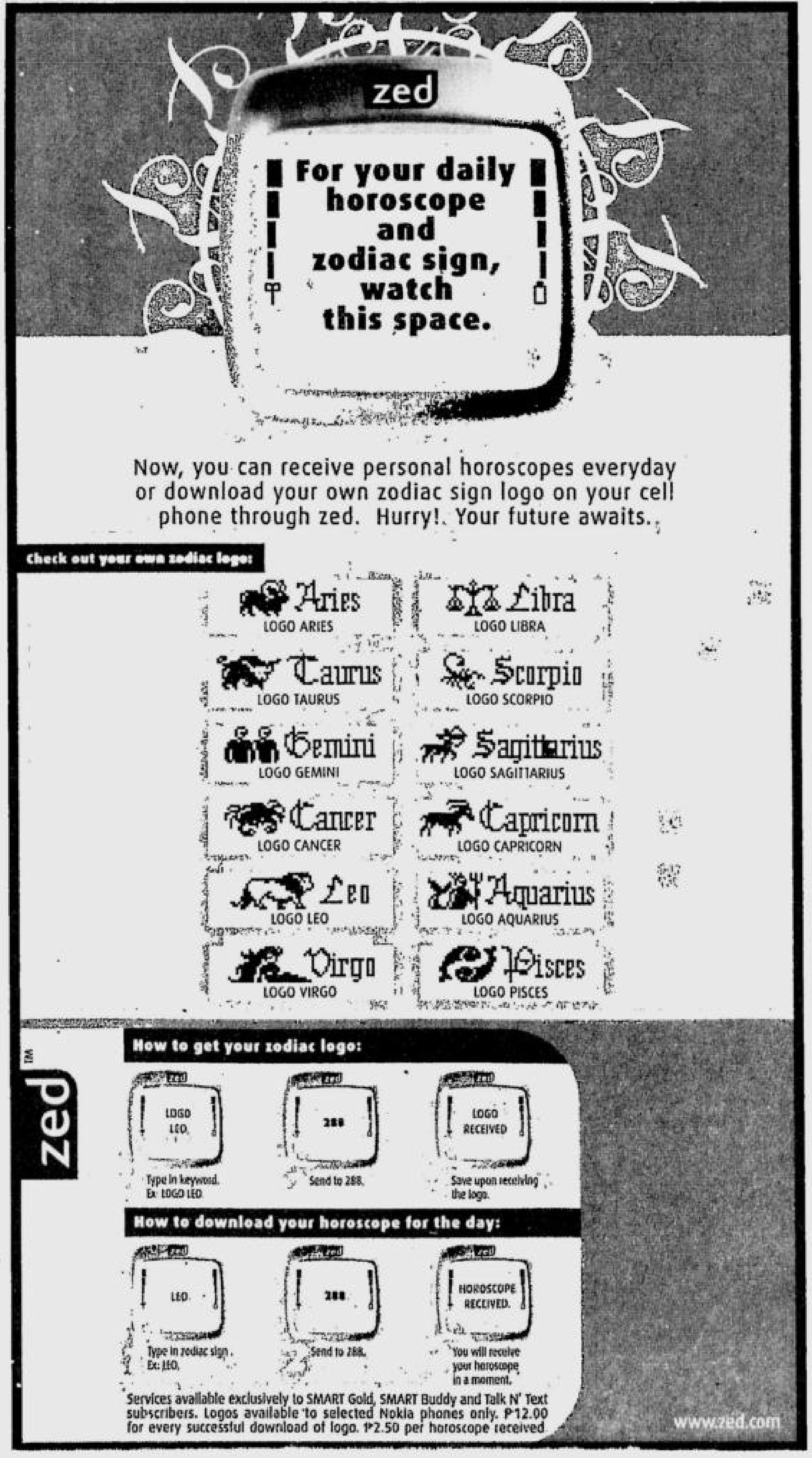


JOSE Rizal's poem "Mi Ultimo Adios" was the inspiration of a rare set of 14 postcards in the early 1900s. Each postcard had its own beautiful illustrations and a stanza of the poem.


HIMNO NACIONAL FILIPINO
CANTO Y PIANO
J. FELIPE

OLDEST extant music sheet of "Himno Nacional Filipina" of Julian Felipe

HOROSCOPE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Launching of book and website on martial law set

IN SEPTEMBER 1999, Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, Ateneo de Manila University, Foundation for Worldwide People Power and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility convened a conference on the Legacies of the Marcos Dictatorship, held at the Ateneo de Manila. The conference theme of memory and truth-telling as being essential in the pursuit of justice was derived from the impetus provided by the Legacies of Authoritarianism Project initiated by the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The conference provided overviews on the different themes dealing with Martial Rule and the Marcos dictatorship, and served as a venue for intergenerational dialogue between activists, victims, scholars and ordinary people who lived through martial rule, and the youth—students, artists, teachers. But more than this, the conference formulated an action agenda that hopes to contribute in establishing and exposing the truths about martial rule, to help our people, especially the youth, to fully understand what happened during the Marcos years and to ensure that it will never be allowed to happen again; and to push for a national policy that will recognize the truth about the abuses of the dictatorship and pursue redress for these abuses.

Two of such action projects are being launched on June 15 at Ateneo de Manila. "Memory, Truth-telling and the Pursuit of Justice: A Conference Report" is published by the Office of Research and Publications of Ateneo. The book includes a Foreword by former President Corazon Aquino, Summaries of the Sessions and the Conference Papers, which focus on the many aspects of society and culture under martial rule. The papers include works by Francisco Claver, S.J., Alex Brillantes Jr., Bienvenido Lumbera, Alice Guillermo, Isagani Yambot, Eugenia Apostol and Carmen Abubakar.

Also to be launched is the website NeverAgain.net, which aims to be a source of information for the youth and students who continue to experience the impact of martial rule. NeverAgain.net is a project of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute's Project on the Legacies of the Marcos Dictatorship, with the support of the Foundation for Media Alternatives and the Foundation for Communication Initiatives.

The site shall have a section on martial law (the political, legal and constitutional terrain, the economy, culture and the arts, media, etc.), the legacies of the dictatorship and current efforts to bring out the truth about martial law.

The double launch will be on June 15, 4 p.m., Escaler Hall, Science Education Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. Call ORP at 426-5663, Corinna Lopa at 433-2210 or Joey Dimeandal at 435-6684, or e-mail orp@admu.edu.ph, ckalopa@codewan.com.ph or fmalt@codewan.com.ph

National Artist F. Sionil Jose holds autograph signing for new novel

F. SIONIL Jose will autograph his new novel, "Ben Singkol,", at the National Bookstore, Shangri-La Edsa, tomorrow, starting at 4:30 p.m.

"Ben Singkol" is perhaps the author's most memorable character—a coward who runs away from his Bataan foxhole, and from challenges that test not just man's capacity for physical pain but also for moral courage.

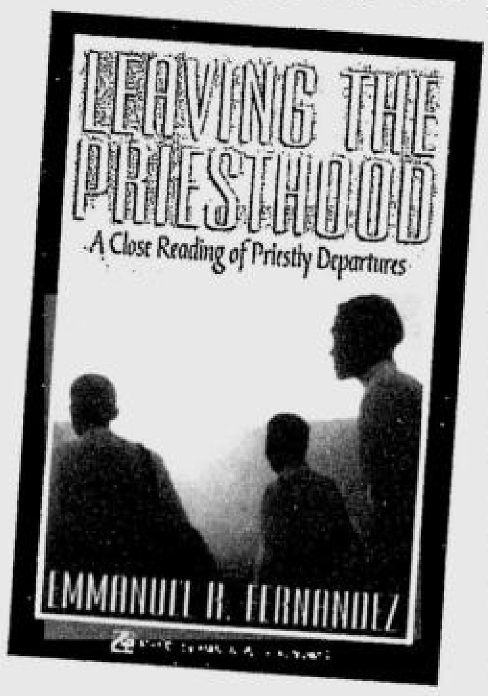
Though the novel deals with Jose's favorite theme, the Filipino's search for moral order and social justice, it also defines the contemporary dilemma of many Filipinos—how to live with one's idea of self-respect.

The novel covers a broad time frame—from the prewar era, the Japanese Occupation and American liberation, to the first few years of the Marcos dictatorship.

F. Sionil Jose is the country's newest National Artist for Literature. His fiction has been translated in 24 languages.

F. SIONIL
JOSÉ
Ben Singkol
BEN SINGKOL A NOVEL F. SIONIL JOSE
S

Book on priesthood


LEAVING THE PRIESTHOOD
A Close Reading of Priestly Departures
EMMANUEL R. FERNANDEZ

CHIEF Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. will be guest of honor at the launching of "Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures" by Fr. Emmanuel Fernandez, on June 15, 2 p.m., at the Pangasinan Village Inn in Calasiao, Pangasinan. Davide describes the book as "a piercing investigation into the nature of commitment."

In his book, Father Fernandez, a UP-trained Ph.D. in Sociology, examines the reasons behind the painful decision of some of his colleague-priests to give up the calling they have sacrificed so much for. Their life stories provide both religious and laity several insights into the struggle of priests to persevere in their ministry. The author hopes that these insights will help the clergy, priests and lay people alike come up with ways to help forestall such departures.

During the launching, Msgr. Rafael Magno Jr., vicar general of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, will talk about the book. Other invited church dignitaries include Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan and Bishop Jesus Cabrera of the Diocese of Alaminos.

The book is published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press, and is available at Solidaridad, National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

New cookbooks

ANVIL Publishing Inc., with Lasap Restaurant, launched four new additions to the best-selling Pinoy Classic Cuisine series by noted chef and restaurateur Gene Gonzalez recently. The new titles are: "The Little Gulay Book," "The Little Kakanin Book," "The Little Philippine Bar Book" and "The Little Sabaw Book."

"The Little Gulay Book" is a compilation of easy-to-prepare vegetable dishes from the different regions of the Philippines. These recipes will enable the homemaker to serve regional cuisine at home. "The Little Kakanin Book" aims to dispel the common belief that our popular snacks are difficult to make and can only be eaten on special occasions. "The Little Philippine Bar Book" presents recipes which were developed and became bar specials at Café Ysabel. It's a valuable reference for hotels and restaurants. The drinks are made from recipes from native ingredients and traditional bar procedures. "The Little Sabaw Book" consists of soup dishes gathered by Chef Gene during his travels around the country. The dishes were chosen for their very Filipino flavor and their simplicity in preparation, a treat for the working person and the urban culinary enthusiast.

Gonzalez is the president of Café Ysabel. He is presently the chair and senior partner of Supreme Food and Beverage Consultancy Inc., a company that addresses the development requirements of the country's food and beverage industry. He is also the author of "Cocina Sulipeña: Culinary Gems from Old Pampanga" and the first four of Anvil Publishing's little cookbook series: "Ensalada," "Adobo," "Pansit" and "Inihaw."

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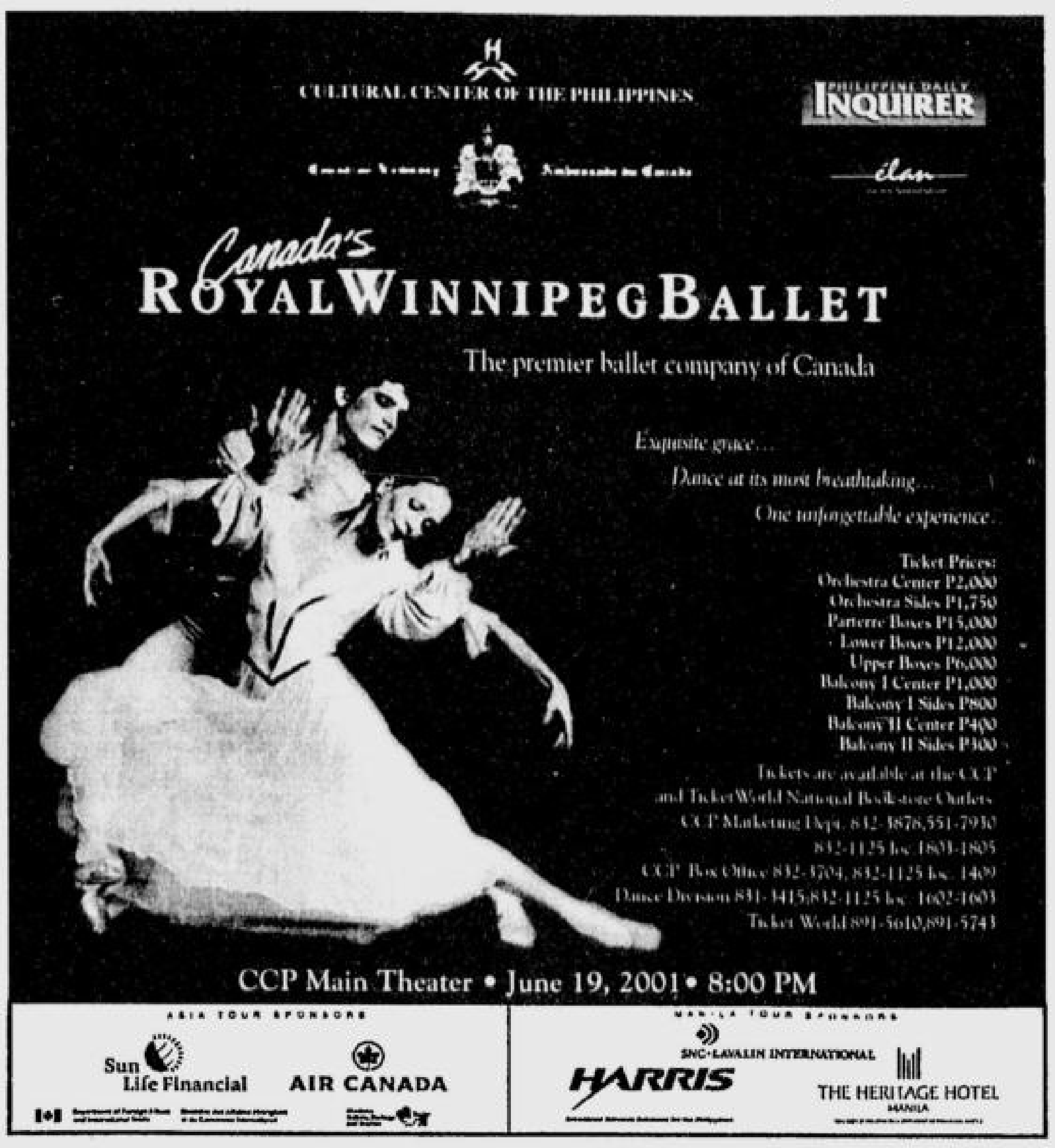
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THE LEADERS in the appliance retail and credit card industries have joined forces again. This time, innovation spices up the countless value-added benefits this unequalled tie-up brings to hundreds of thousands of shoppers.

Citibank credit cardholders now have plenty of reasons to celebrate as the premier credit card ties up with SM Appliance Center to offer huge treats on shopping sprees, great discounts and Citibank Paylite installment plan.

From June 15 to August 13, shoppers at all participating SM branches will get a chance at hitting the daily jackpots at the "Instant Appliance Papremyo Jackpot Araw-Araw" promo. For a minimum purchase of P1,000 (single or accumulated), shoppers can have a chance at playing a unique "slot machine" that allows them to win wonderful items everyday, including jackpots of big ticket items. This also gives them a chance to drive home one of two Nissan Frontier 4x2 pick-ups to be given away during the grand draw.

With the existing tie-up between SM and Citibank, Citibank credit card holders get more chances of winning.

This is the first time SM shall utilize the "slot machine" concept in its daily raffle promos. However, instead of the traditional lever that is pulled down to roll the machine, this time a simple push of a button is needed to get the winnings going. Each SM Appliance Center across the country shall be equipped with such a machine to accommodate the thousands of shoppers anticipated to try their luck for on-the-spot prizes.

By just presenting a validated tape receipt at the redemption center, shoppers will have a chance to try their luck at the slot machine whose daily jackpot prize could either be a television, a refrigerator or an audio component.

Play as much as possible

The number of times you can play the slot machine depends on the amount in your purchase receipt. Shoppers who use their Citibank credit card get an extra play in the slot machine. Thus, for cash purchases from P1,000 to P4,999.99, shoppers are allowed to play once in the slot machine. But for shoppers who pay through their Citibank credit card, they get another chance.

"You play twice if your purchase receipt is between P5,000 to P9,999.99. Citibank credit cardholders get three plays on the slot machine. For purchases amounting to P10,000 and above, shoppers are allowed to play three times. Four if they use Citibank credit card on their purchases," Michael Vincent Wong, SM ad and promo group manager for affiliates, explains.

The daily "Instant Appliance Papremyo" games will be held during store hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. To win in the slot machine, a shopper only needs three similar images to appear in the machine's monitor. Winning combinations are as follows: A row of three jackpot images means they get the jackpot prize of the day.

Shoppers who don't win the jackpot of the day are guaranteed to win other consolation prizes. A row of three pen images wins a pen, a row of three mug images wins a coffee mug, while a row of three plate sets wins a porcelain set. Winners of the consolation prize get their items on the spot.

There will be one daily winner for the daily jackpot prize. Should the

EVERYONE/ F5

DO THE PAYLITE 'STRETCH'

Exercise empowered, enlightened purchases using no cash

THERE'S something in the hands of nearly 700,000 Filipinos that gives them the maximum purchasing power possible in the maximum number of establishments, and then some. It isn't hard to guess that it's the Citibank credit card, with more and more people nowadays flashing the card instead of the cash. And as the days pass, even more people are discovering just how powerful, and convenient, this palm-sized credit card can be.

It's like a physical fitness thing. The Citibank credit card is making its cardholders "exercise" their purchasing powers and "flex and stretch" their payment options.

The innovation and resources of Citibank has enabled its credit card variants—the Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, the Shell-Citibank MasterCard, and the Citibank-Cathay Pacific Visa—to offer unmatched credit limits and conveniences unique to the Citibank credit card.

Citibank offers high credit limits and value-added services, such as the confidence of acceptance and recognition worldwide, 24-hour customer service, next-day card replacements, rewards, cash advance, and a 30-day purchase protection, just to name a few (Detailed rundown of card features on F6).

EXERCISE/ F2

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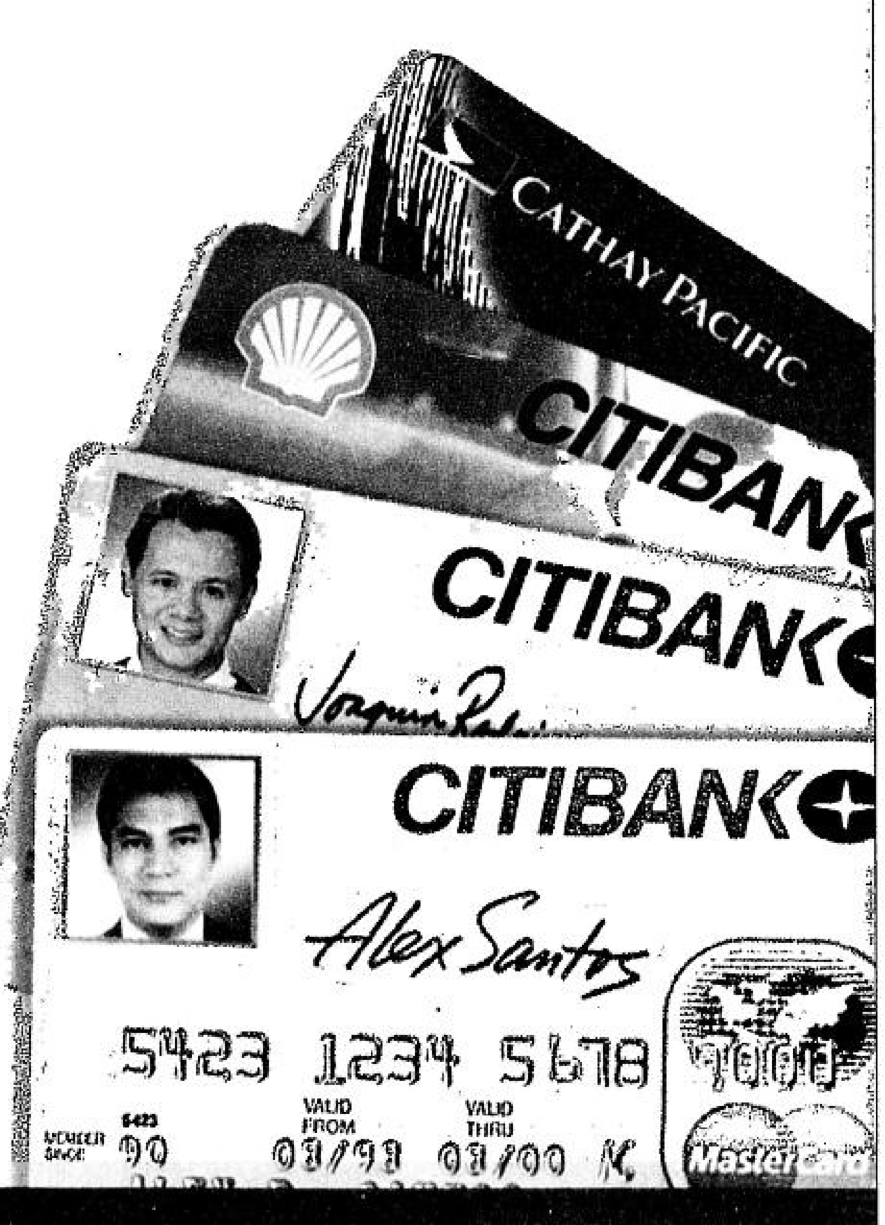

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THE female force behind PayLite are (from left) Jenny Lacerna, AVP-Cards Category; Bea Teh-Tan, VP-Cards Category and Pam Nacpil, Paylite program manager.

THE SM-Citibank PayLite team are (from left) Michael Wong, SM Ad and Promo Group manager; Melissa Tong, SM Ad and Promo coordinator; Nic Aguirre, Citibank PayLite program manager and Gigi Rodriguez, Citibank AVP-Media, Events and Promotions.

CITIBANK

Exercise empowered. . .

(From page F1)

What really makes Citibank credit cardholders whoop it up is the unique PayLite Installment payment plan convenience. It's like giving Citibank credit cardholders the "second wind" needed to complete the cycle of a perfect purchasing routine. Buy what you want, and pay at your own pace, without overexerting your pockets.

PayLite is a privilege available to all credit cardholders of Citibank. And there's absolutely no added paperwork to start using PayLite. You run straight into the action, so to speak. All that's needed is for your purchase to be worth P5,000 or more, and then you have the option to go PayLite.

Depending on your financial fitness, you can pay in longer and lighter terms with PayLite. Choose from a "sprint"—3, 6, and 9 months to pay, or go for a "jog"—12 and 18 months. Or simply "walk" your way through the course at 24 months.

Like a portable exercise machine, PayLite can be utilized anytime. It's not a promo limited to a certain period. All year round, rain or shine, shop for anything or pay for any service, and leave it all to PayLite. PayLite is now even accepted in schools, party places, first-class hotels, gyms and health clubs in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

And just like a tried-and-tested fitness routine, PayLite has no unpleasant side effects. Its zero-interest offers are guaranteed by Citibank to spring no hidden charges or costs. From time to time. Citibank launches zero-interest promos with selected merchants that give cardholders the flexibility to pay off purchases for three months or longer with absolutely no interest. That's aside from the constant reduced interest rate offers on other items and services.

They say exercising the body has its own reward. But Citibank says exercising PayLite alone may be good enough for the convenience of cardholders, but it can get even better. How about getting the easiest installment programs, and at the same time getting rewarded just for simply using the PayLite facility? Yup, you heard (rather, read) it right. PayLite's benefits include discounts, free treats, and even double Rewards points at selected establishments.

Now, does this sound too good to be true, or what? To use is to believe. And here's a tip. The ideal place to use your Citibank credit card nowadays is with appliance retail leader SM Appliance. We've heard the place has cooked up exciting promo and a home and office fair in the works. It even has special deals exclusive for Citibank credit cardholders. It's a virtual shopping paradise out there at SM Appliance (see related story).

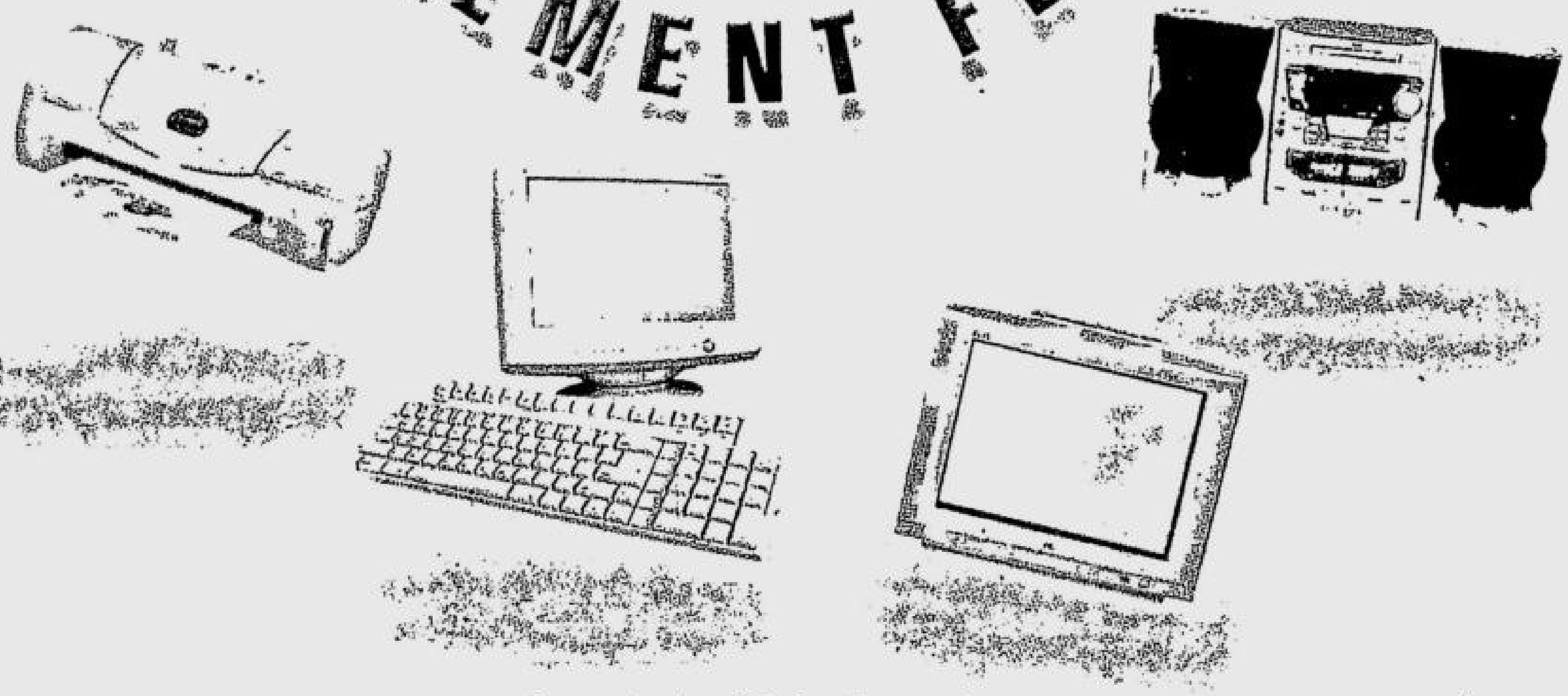
So, what are you waiting for? Take five minutes, check for your Citibank credit card, then sprint on down to any SM Appliance Center. This is definitely a shopping "workout" you'll thank us for.

SM Appliance Center

PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN
THE LONGER, THE LIGHTER

as low as 0% interest on installment rates!

Home & Office INSTALLMENT FESTIVAL



Come to the SM Appliance Center
at **SM CITY NORTH EDSA** from **JUNE 6 to 17, 2001**
and get as low as *0% interest on 6 & 12-month installment rates
on selected items when you **Pay**Lite your purchases.
Rush to the **Home & Office Installment Festival** TODAY!

JVC ERICSSON NOKIA Kelvinator GENESIS COMPUTER SYSTEM Carrier VIRTUAL ASIA INTERNET
New Generation CONDURA Refrigerators Pioneer PHILIPS aiwa Canon SONY PANASONIC

Per DTI-NCR B.A. Permit No.1650-A3-006 Series of 2000

It's not just a Credit Card

Pay

It's celebrating the most memorable events at your favorite party places

CITIBANK

It's not Just a Credit Card

Pay

It's longer, lighter tuition fee payments all-year-round.

CITIBANK

get THE BestDeals

Citibank Credit Cards

Appliance Center

Our Name is Your Guarantee

JOIN! imarflex Super Xtravaganza

For more details, call 833-4952

Turbo Broiler (CVO-700ER)
- DURABLE, RELIABLE and EFFICIENT: made of heat tempered glass pot for visibility: stainless steel fan blades and assembly for easy cleaning
- COMPACT and CONVENIENT: can bake, broil, grill, reheat, roast, steam and toast
- HEALTHY: removes unwanted fats for cholesterol- free cooking
- TIMER and TEMPERATURE SELECTOR to suit your cooking requirements
- Includes rack, tong and extension ring

Teppanyaki Health Grill (AHG-1125)
- SIZE: 11 inches diameter
- CHOLESTEROL-FREE cooking
- Cooking plate is made of TEFLEX crystalline non-stick coating
- See through, tempered glass lid
- COOL TOUCH base and handles
- VARIABLE TEMPERATURE CONTROL
- SMOKELESS
- FULLY IMMERSIBLE PLATE: dishwasher safe
- QUICK - RELEASE cooking plate for easy cleaning

4in1 Automatic Rice Cooker (IRC-25S)
- 2.5L - 15 cups
- Rice Cooker, Warmer, Steamer and Shabu-shabu
- Inner pot (removable) is made of TEFLEX crystalline non-stick coating
- Tempered glass lid
- Stainless Steel Body
- Pilot light Indicator (COOK/ KEEP WARM)
- Includes measuring cup, spatula and steam tray

Oven Toaster (IM-6220MS)
- Bakes, browns, toasts, and reheats
- 15 minute TIMER
- 20% Larger Capacity
- Pull-out crumb tray
- STAINLESS top and back body
- Thermal safety sensor

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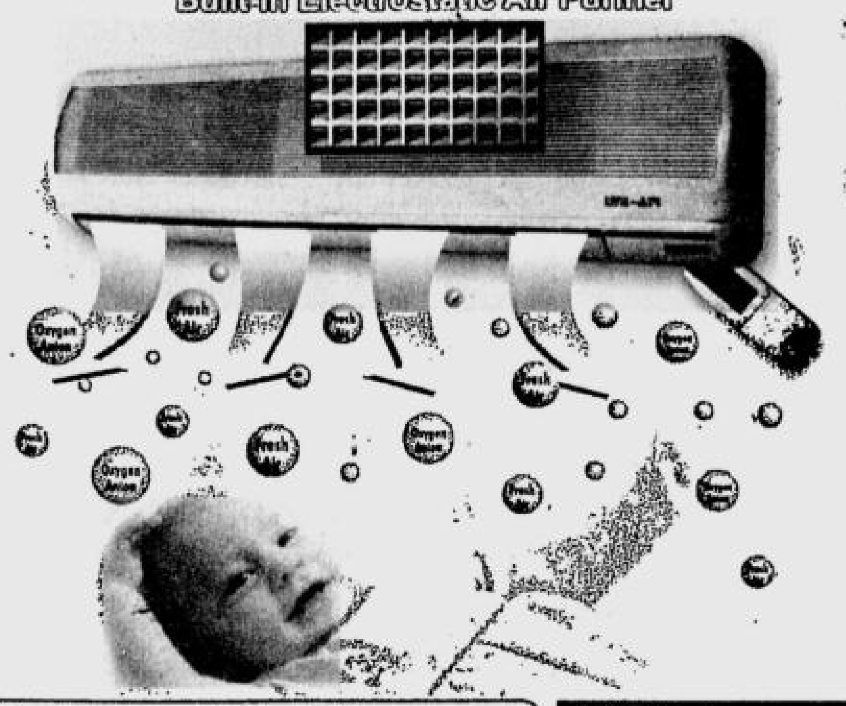
AVAIL OF OUR *FREE INSTALLATION PROMO!
FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF SPLIT-TYPE
(FOR METRO MANILA ONLY)

Clean, Cool, Quality Air

UNI~AIR SPLIT-TYPE AIR CONDITIONER

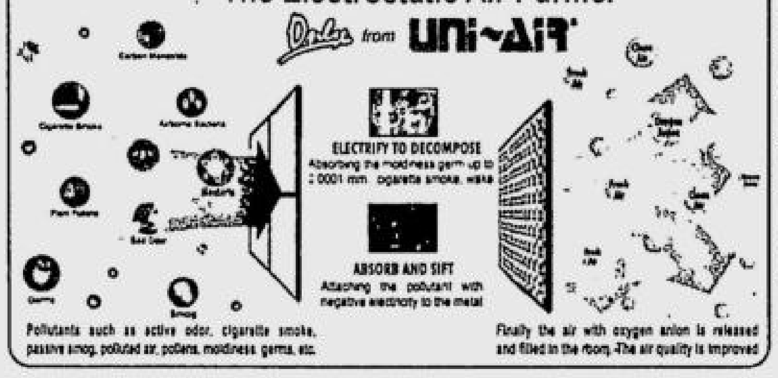
It's the airconditioner which has high cooling system and unique cooling added feature, the electrostatic air purifier that decomposes pollutant effectively. The result - 99.99 % clean, cool, quality air which is good for your health especially those with allergies and asthma.

Built-in Electrostatic Air Purifier



The Electrostatic Air Purifier

Only from UNI~AIR



ELECTRIFY TO DECOMPOSE
Absorbing the moldiness germ up to 0.0001 mm cigarette smoke, wake

ABSORB AND SIFT
Attaching the pollutant with negative electricity to the metal

Pollutants such as active odor, cigarette smoke, passive smog, polluted air, pollens, moldiness, germs, etc.

Finally the air with oxygen anion is released and filled in the room. The air quality is improved

Split Type Models	hp ratings	Before	NOW
U-I000NSECW	1.0hp	31,500	29,000
U-I260NSECW	1.5hp	34,200	31,500
U-I800NSECW	2.0hp	41,700	39,500
U-2240NSECW	2.5hp	44,500	42,500
Multi-Split Type Models			
U-2000NSECW	1-1hp	63,150	58,000
U-2800NSECW	1-1hp 1-2hp	73,850	68,500

* Free Installation inclusive of the first 3 meters (10 feet) of refrigerant pipings. Exclusive of the following: (1)Mounting bracket; (2)Circuit breaker

Customer Care 563-0868

FOR PRODUCT DEMO PLEASE VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT 2260 PRES. QUIRINO AVE. PACO MLA.

UNI~AIR®
AIR CONDITIONERS
For Clean, Cool, Quality Air

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE DEALERS AND EXCLUSIVE SERVICE CENTERS

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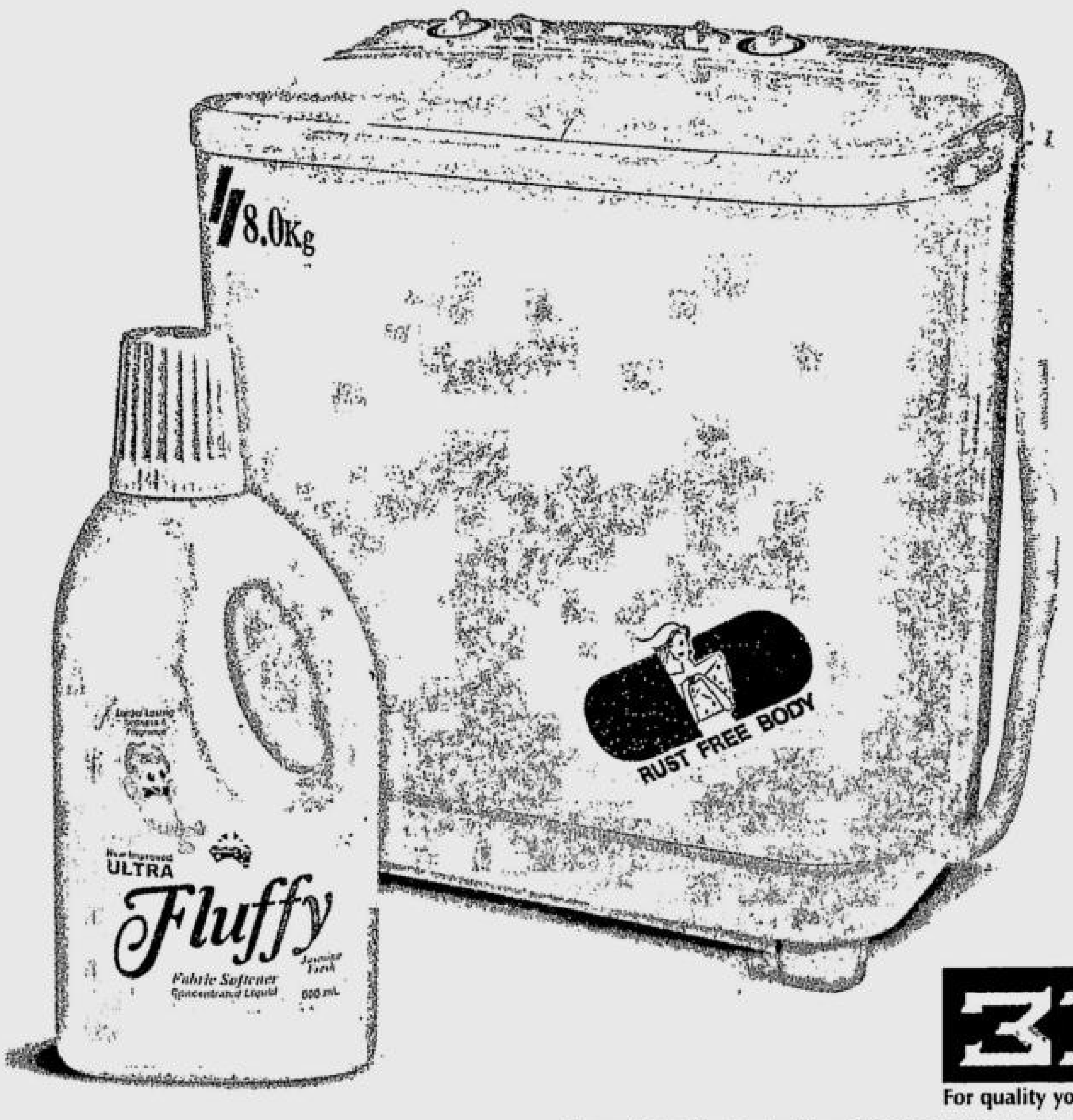
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO 3328 SERIES OF 2000

MEET THE CLEAN TEAM

3D Washing Machine and Fluffy Fabric Softener:

the potent combination for spotless, fluffier clothes.

Get
FREE
Fluffy Fabric Softener
with every purchase of
3D Washing Machine or Dryer

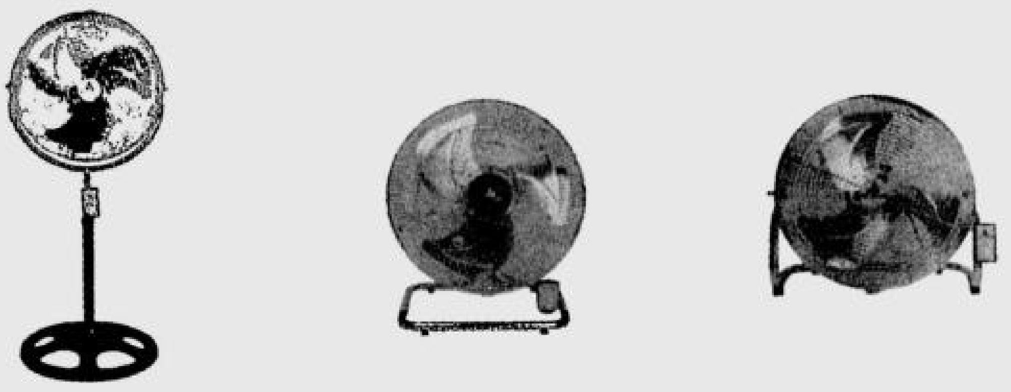


3D TURBO WASHING MACHINE
Your wash is my command

3D
For quality you can trust

Promo period starts from May 1 until August 31, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1122, Series of 2001.

Heavy-Duty Heat Requires INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH COOLING



ISO 9002 SGS
CERTIFIED Product Quality

Powered by:
HANABISHI
Your Satisfaction is Our Guarantee
1-Year Warranty, Lifetime FREE Service!

get THE **Best**Deals
Citibank Credit Cards

SM Appliance Center
Our Name is Your Guarantee

Know your PayLite rights

PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN
THE LONGER, THE LIGHTER

- PayLite is a privilege available to all Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell Citibank MasterCard and Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa cardholders.
- No need to enroll or register to start using PayLite. Visit any of the participating establishments and for purchases worth P5,000 or higher, you can opt to use PayLite.
- Enjoy longer and lighter payment terms with PayLite depending on your financial capability. Choose from 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, or 24 monthly instalments.
- Available anytime, PayLite is not a promotional offer limited to a certain period. Shop for appliances and home furniture, enroll your child in school, get new school supplies or throw a birthday party anytime and avail of PayLite at accredited establishments.
- Growing list of merchant partners means more and more choices for Citibank cardholders to use PayLite. Initially available at appliance and furniture stores, PayLite is now accepted at schools, party places, first-class hotels, bookstores, gyms and health clubs located in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.
- Grab zero-interest offers guaranteed to have no hidden charges or costs. From time to time, Citibank launches zero-interest promotions with selected merchants that give cardholders the flexibility to pay off purchases for three months or longer with absolutely no interest. There are also reduced rate offers that make buying on installment so much easier.
- Take advantage of other PayLite benefits including discounts, free treats, and even double Rewards points at participating establishments.

All these give you the best reasons to avail of the best deals with PayLite. So next time you want to reward yourself with a brand new Flat television, or give mom a new refrigerator, or renew your gym membership, or enroll the kids in school or celebrate a family get-together, think PayLite and free yourself from the financial worries of here and now.

To know more about PayLite, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila or 234-9999 in Metro Cebu or 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces.

Clutter solutions

YOU need to make an urgent call but forgot the number, then you recall writing it on a piece of yellow post-it the day before yesterday. The search begins, turning the books and memos upside down and rummaging through the drawers of your disarrayed desk, hoping that it might be tucked between the set of files you compiled yesterday. On your eternal search, you find paperclips, staple wires, coins and candies all mixed up together with the pen you have been looking for a week ago. You become desperate and rant on why everything is disorganized. Then, finally, Eureka! The piece of paper you've been hunting for decades is in the trash. If this situation occurs to you then you are among those who live in a cluttered place.

Disarray has a way of getting into our places because of growing needs and dynamic lifestyle. Though no one really wants to work on a.desk that seems to have been hit by a tornado, much less live in a place that is comparable to a pigsty, clutter starts to mount when things are not kept into their proper places and order. Many factors, aside from having a disorganized behavior causes clutter, this can also be a result of limited or poorly designed space, lack of storage, or bulky furniture and items. But whatever the reason might be, still you don't want its hassles to get in the way of your tasks. Here are some suggestions to keep your place organized.

- Set a free day that would allow you to focus on fixing the whole mess and work continuously. Once you start, don't stop until it is completely done.
- Plan how to rearrange everything before you start, like what other ways you can position the furniture to save space and what item needs to be fixed first and kept on what particular storage.
- Decide on the things that can be considered junk and can be thrown out. Cut out articles from old magazines that you consider as future references then dispose the whole thing so as not to add to the clutter. Old pieces of furniture, clothes, books and other stuff that have no use can be items for a garage sale.
- Classify the things you want to keep. Sort things of the same kind and store them near the area where those are usually utilized.
- After arranging everything, remember to maintain its orderliness. Keeping things to where they rightly belong minimizes clutter.

Another factor that could add to the clutter is the furniture storage. Don't buy storage furniture you don't really need no matter how good they look because they can end up being part of the clutter. A perfect example of storage that is not too bulky but is multipurpose is the Kyowa Kitchen Organizer, a furniture storage that is innovatively crafted to help the modern family organize their kitchen in this fast-paced and dynamic lifestyle. It has a rice dispenser, wide sliding shelf with a built-in socket for rice cookers and a cabinet that can store canned goods or kitchen essentials such as silverware. Its spacious top will do great for small kitchen appliances like oven toasters and also has rollers underneath for easy transfer. Made from quality materials with a minimalist design, Kyowa Kitchen Organizer is guaranteed to last and is definitely a clutter solution that makes the job in the kitchen easier.

There's a killer in the house

AIR POLLUTION is a national health threat. And indoor air pollution is considered often more polluted than outdoor air. These situations are found in homes, offices, schools and all types of buildings that are insulated or tightly sealed. In this set up, there is little or no air exchange, only indoor air is re-circulated. Hence, pollutants are trapped inside and goes with the air we breathe. What aggravates things is that we spend a great deal of time indoors.

Most airborne pollutants such as smoke, bacteria, mold and virus spores pose great risks to our health. These could cause allergies, respiratory and eye infections, asthma attacks, fatigue and depression. Worse, under severe conditions, pollutants can result to injury and even death.

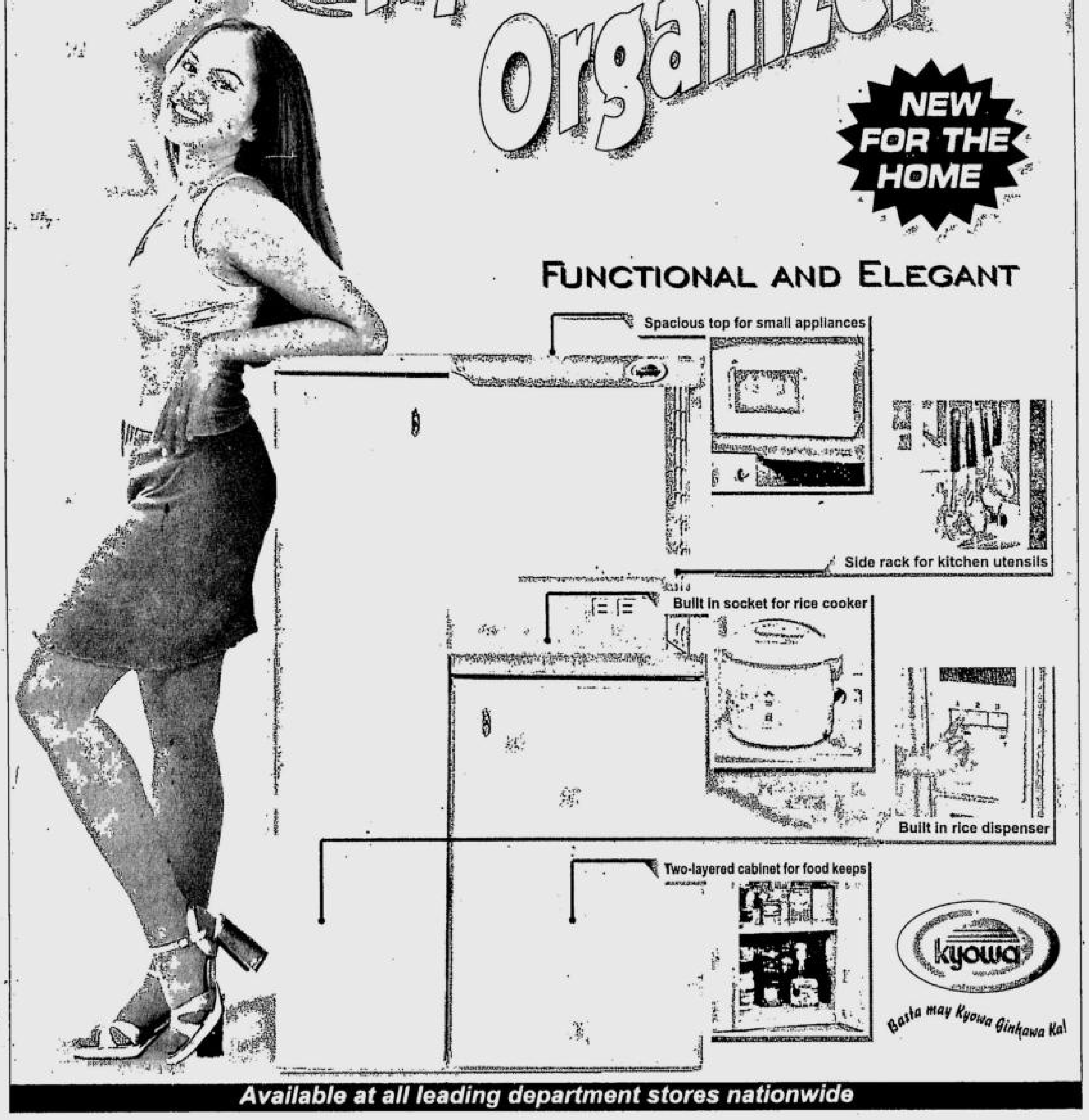
Clean indoor air now. Do your part—stop smoking, dispose of wastes properly, and keep clean surroundings.

Uni-Air has long been calling for a pollution-free air. It was the first to come up with the "split type" air conditioner, which has an electrostatic air purifier that can filter pollutants such as smoke, active odor and molds by absorbing into a needle-electrified area and put negative electricity into the waste air. This negatively charged air is then attaches to the metal electrostatic dust absorber, which is positively charged. Then, air with oxygen anions (negative ions which neutralize positive ions carrying pollutants) is released. The result is 99.99 percent clean, cool, quality air—only from Uni-Air.

Mas Ayos, Mas Maganda sa Kyowa Kitchen Organizer

NEW FOR THE HOME

FUNCTIONAL AND ELEGANT


Spacious top for small appliances
Side rack for kitchen utensils
Built in socket for rice cooker
Built in rice dispenser
Two-layered cabinet for food keeps
kyowa
Basta may Kyowa Ginhawa Ka!

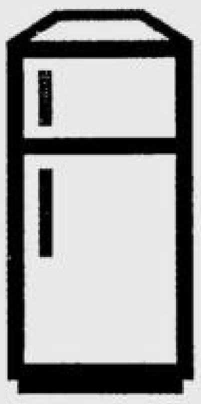
Available at all leading department stores nationwide

get THE Best Deals with Citibank Credit Cards

Win in SM's Instant Appliance Papremyo . . .

(From page F1)

SM Appliance Center
Our Name is Your Guarantee



lucky shopper win more than one consolation prize (for multiple play cases), they will be entitled to only one consolation prize of their choice. In case they are awarded a consolation prize and the daily jackpot prize, they get the higher value prize, which is, of course, the daily jackpot prize.

Shoppers who don't win in the daily jackpot games are entitled to join the grand draw on August 24 at 2 p.m. at the SM Head office in Carlos Palanca, Manila. The number of stubs to be given to the shopper will be the same as the number of credits they played. All they need is to fill up the raffle stub with their name, address, telephone number and signature and drop at designated drop boxes. Just keep the claim stub.

Should their name be drawn more than once during the grand draw, another winner shall be chosen to win the other prize. Grand prize winners will be notified through mail and their names will be announced in major dailies. Two handsome Nissan Frontier 4x2 pick-ups, no less, are in store for the grand draw winners.

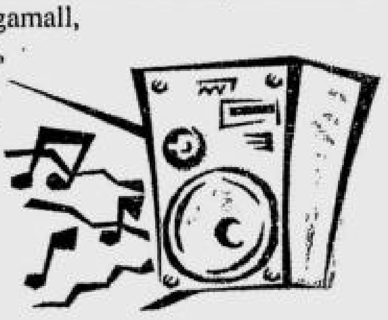
"This year is different as we're adding more excitement. As shoppers buy what they need, they have the option of paying their purchases through the Citibank Paylite installment term. The longer the term, the lighter it will be for them. What's more, they are entitled to join the jackpot promo and get home with another item. That's a handful of treats only SM and Citibank can offer," Nic Aguirre, Citibank Paylite program manager enthuses.

For this promo, Citibank is also offering special reduced rates for selected items for its cardholders, which can be availed even at the SM Appliance Centers. Paylite offers flexible installment terms no other credit card offers. The Paylite installment facility can be availed of for a minimum purchase of P5,000.

The "Instant Appliance Papremyo Jackpot Araw-Araw" and SM Appliance Center Exhibit is participated in by the following top brands: Adapmo, Aiwa, American Home, Apollo, Ariston, Asahi, Aurora, Brother Fax, Camel, Carrier, Condura, Daewoo, Elba, Fedders, First Star, Fujiya, Gree, Hanabishi, Haier, Hoover, Ichiban, Imarflex, JVC.

KDK International, Kelvinator, Kenwood, Kian, Kolin, Kyowa, La Germania, LG Collins, Minami, Marusi, Mitsuboshi, Miyata, National, Oster, Pensonic, Panasonic, Philips Electronics, Polytron, Samsung, Sansio, Sansui, Sanyo, Search Commercial, Singer, Sony, Teba, 3D, Uniair, Uniden Asia-Pacific, Union, Whirlpool and Winglow.

Participating branches of the Appliance Center are Bacoor, Cebu, Cubao, Fairview, Harrison, Iloilo (Delgado and Mandurriao), Makati, Manila, North Edsa Annex, North Edsa Basement, North Edsa Main, Megamall, Pampanga, Rockwell, Southmall, Sta. Mesa, Sucat.



S400
BUBBLE JET PRINTER

S STANDS FOR SURPRISINGLY SMART

The grass will always be greener on your side of the fence with this amazing new Bubble Jet printer that's a natural for home or small office use. You'll get beautiful, high-resolution colour and quick-smart output. It will even capture colour as well as print it with the optional IS-32 scanner cartridge. Like every S-series printer, the S400 is simple to use, reliable, quiet and cost-effective. And thanks to Canon Think Tanks™ technology – individually replaceable ink tanks with real-time ink level detection – you'll never run out of ink mid-print, and you'll never have to throw away another drop of ink. Better for nature, and better for your pocket.

The new S400 from Canon. Surprisingly smart at capturing nature.

• High resolution 1440 x 720 dpi colour. • High Intensity ink for more vivid colours and increased resistance to fading. • 9ppm of sharp, black text, 4ppm colour. • Cost-saving Think Tanks™ technology so you never waste a drop in ink. • Dual USB & Parallel Interface • Scanner option

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COLOR BUBBLE JET
Think TANKS

Canon
The best technology in print

CITIBANK

SM Appliance Center

PayLite INSTALLMENT PLAN
THE LONGER, THE LIGHTER

Instant Appliance Papremyo
JACKPOT ARAW-ARAW

GRAND PRIZE 2
FRONTIER

Shop at any SM Appliance Center
from June 15 to August 13, 2001
and play the newest game in town!
A minimum purchase of P1,000
entitles you to play the Jackpot
Slot Machine. PayLite your
purchases and get more chances
of winning daily consolation
and Jackpot prizes or
one (1) of two (2) Nissan Frontiers
in the Grand Draw!

CONDURA
Refrigerator*
CPS-6TD
- Spacious Design for Maximum Storage
- Durable Compressor
- Fast Cooling

KIAN
Electric Fan*

SAMSUNG
VHS Player*
SV-D35B
- Power Diamond Head
- 181 Channel TV Tuning Capability
- Self Diagnostic System

SONY
COLOR TV*
KP-EF41MN3

UNION
Tornado Fan*
UTS-18

CAMEL
Desk Fan CDF-416R*
- Energy Efficient
- Easy to Clean
- Durable Quality

JVC
Color TV*
CTV AV29-R8B
- 73 66 cm (29") Screen
- Real Flat Picture Tube w/ Dynamic Focus
- Auto Video Noise Reduction (VNR)

WHIRLPOOL
Microwave Oven*
AVM-278
- 28 Liter Capacity
- Double Emission System
- Patented Crisp Plate

PHILIPS
VCD-CDGVZZ*

SANSUI
Portable Component*

AIWA
Mini Component*
XR-DV826
- Built-in Dolby Digital Decoder
- Dolby Pro Logic Surround
- Electronic Graphic Equalizer

3D
Turbo Roaster*
AX707P
- Transparent Glass Cover
- Heat Resistant Glass Bowl
- 1 Hour Timer & Temperature Control Switch

HAIER
Refrigerator*
BCD-275
- Fast Freeze
- Ultra Thick Insulation
- Reversible Door & Adjustable Shelves

LG
Washing Machine*
WP-810G
- 6 kg. Capacity
- Triple Wash Selector
- Transparent Wash Cover

JVC
Super VCD*
Component
MX-J888V
- Center & Surround Speakers
- 30 FM & 15 AM Station Memory
- Spectro Peak Indicator & Optical Digital Output

HANABISHI
Gas Stove
H6-2000
- Automatic Ignition
- Rust Resistant
- Easy to Clean

CARRIER
Aircon
APMRT 090BA*
- High Energy Efficiency
- Quiet Compressor
- Automatic Thermostat

DAEWOO
Washing Machine*
DW429
- 4.2 kg Twin Tub Washing Capacity
- Reduced Noise & Vibration
- Two-way Washing Action w/ Wash Selector

SANYO
Washing Machine
SW-750
- 7.5 kg. Capacity
- Power Pulsator
- Cycle Selector

NISSAN
Universal Motors Corporation

*Products shown are available at all SM Appliance Center branches, but are not daily jackpot prizes.

PROMO DURATION: JUNE 15 TO AUGUST 13, 2001 SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0757 SERIES OF 2001

SM CITY NORTH EDSA | NORTH EDSA ANNEX | NORTH EDSA BASEMENT | SM MAKATI | HARRISON PLAZA | SM CUBAO | SM MEGAMALL | SM CENTERPOINT | SM SOUTHMALL | SM CITY BACOOR | SM CITY FAIRVIEW | SM CITY CEBU | SM CITY ILOILO | SM CITY MANILA | SM DELGADO | SM CITY PAMPANGA | ROCKWELL | SUCAT
[illegible]

SM Appliance Center
Our Name is Your Guarantee

SM Appliance Center's history

SM Appliance Center (SM ACI), the former appliance department of SM ACA (Appliance and Car Accessories), is an affiliate company of Shoemart Inc. It began its operations on Jan. 17, 1983, marking the establishment of stores with complete line of appliances.

During its first year of operations, three branches were established, namely: SM ACI, Ayala Avenue (beside Rizal Theater); SM ACI, Vito Cruz Extension; and SM ACI, Cubao (opened March 19, 1983).

In 1985, the management of SM ACI closed the Ayala Avenue and Vito Cruz branches due to limited store and parking space. However, three other branches were opened: SM ACI, Harrison Plaza (November 1984); SM ACI, Makati Annex (Sept. 2, 1985); and SM ACI, SM City North Edsa Main (December 1985).

By this time, the Home Center Division was added to SM ACI and subsequently occupied the second, third and fourth floors of SM Makati Annex.

On June 15, 1988, SM Appliance Center placed a branch at SM Manila, followed by another branch at SM City North Edsa Annex on Oct. 8, 1989. The Megamall B branch opened on June 29, 1991.

Ultimately, Star Appliance Center Inc., a separate entity, was created on Nov. 6, 1991. This development was soon followed by the opening of the following branches: Megamall A branch (Feb. 7, 1992); SM Centerpoint, Sta. Mesa branch (Nov. 23, 1992); and North Edsa Super Sale Club branch (Jan. 15, 1993).

On July 5, 1994, Manila branch was closed due to the fire that gutted SM Manila Bldg.

Two more SM Appliance Center branches opened in 1995, SM City Cebu branch (Jan. 27, 1995) and Southmall, Las Piñas branch (Dec. 15, 1995).

At the end of June 1997, Megamall A branch closed down. On Nov. 28, 1997, SM City Bacoor branch opened and on Mar. 1, 1998, SM City Fairview branch.

SM Appliance Center added another branch in Iloilo-Mandurriao on June 25, 1999. In September, the branch located at Super Sale Club gave way to the opening of a bigger store at the basement of SM City North Edsa Main Building on Sept. 10, 1999.

2000 saw the opening of branches at SM Iloilo-Delgado, SM City Manila (April 29) and SM City Pampanga (October). For this year, two more branches were opened, namely at The Power Plant in Rockwell Center and at SM Supercenter Sucat.

Corporate direction

For the past 40 years, SM has been committed to providing quality products and services of reasonable prices and to meeting the ever-changing needs of the customer in a responsible and responsive manner.

It is SM's objective to:

- maintain its leadership in the marketplace;
- maintain recognition as an authority in the retail field;
- be on the forefront of retail technology;
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SM commits itself and pledges its resources to the continued quest for excellence in an increasingly competitive and ever-changing environment.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2001
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Dotcom CEOs tangle in $2-M suit

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

THE ADMINISTRATOR of the Philippine country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) has sued fellow IT professional Fernando Contreras Jr. for alleged "unprovoked and vicious personal and public attack" on the complainant's name, reputation and character.

DotPH CEO and PH domain administrator Joel Disini is seeking $1 million in moral damages and $1 million in exemplary damages from Contreras, based on documents obtained by the INQUIRER. Disini filed the libel suit, with I.S. No. PSG 01-05-10672, on May 29 at the Office of the City Prosecutor in Pasig.

The INQUIRER called up Disini at his office to get his side, but was informed that Disini is out of the country, along with DotPH spokesperson Emil Avanceña. The INQUIRER then e-mailed Disini, but received no reply as of presstime.

The subpoena issued against Contreras requires him to submit a counteraffidavit and appear for preliminary investigation on June 19 at 2 p.m.

Contreras is the spokesperson and one of the founders of the Philippine Domain Authority Conveners or PhilDAC, a non-profit organization which seeks to have the administration of the PH domain redelegated to it. Contreras is also the president of the Philippine Internet Service Organization (Piso), an association that counts a number of the country's Internet service providers as members. He is also the country manager of Interdotnet Philippines Inc., a sister company of TLD administrator PSINet.

Based on the complaint-affidavit, Contreras is apparently being sued as a private individual.

Contreras confirmed in a telephone interview that Disini has filed a $2-million libel suit against him, but declined to comment on the case.

According to the complaint-affidavit, the attack against Disini took place "during a presentation made by Mr. Contreras, a.k.a. JR, on March 27, 2001." Titled "An Initiative Towards a Reform of the PH Domain Administration," the PowerPoint slide show was reportedly presented during a Piso meeting. The complaint-affidavit included a printout of the presentation, attached as Annex A.

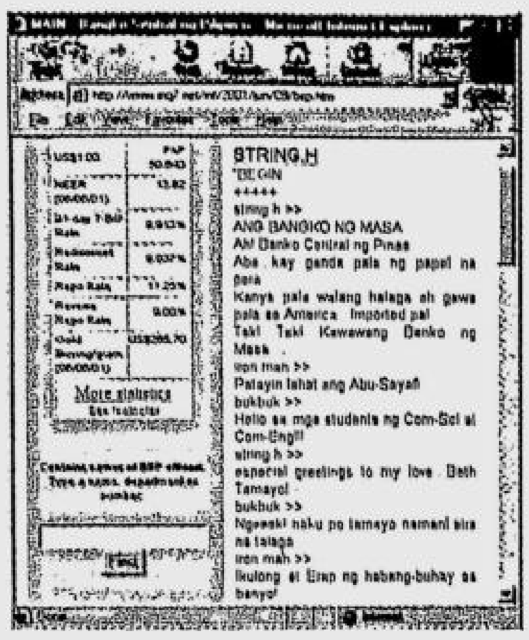
Included in the presentation was the alleged response of Disini to the request of Philnet to administer the PH domain, in a meeting between the Philnet technical committee and Disini "sometime early March 1994."

HYPERLINK

✔ A copy of the PowerPoint presentation mentioned by Disini in his lawsuit may be accessed online at http://www.malate.net/phdomainppt.

The bullet-point presentation included the entry: "Response of J. Disini: 'What do I get in ex-

DOTCOM/ p.G4



STRING.H
BEGIN
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string h >>
ANG BANGKO NG MASA
Ah! Banko Central ng Pinas
Aba kay ganda pala ng papel na pera
Kanya pala walang halaga eh gawa pala sa America. Imported pa!
Taki Taki Kawawang Banko ng Masa
iron man >>
Patayin lahat ang Abu-Sayaff
bukbuk >>
Hello sa mga students ng Com-Sci at Com-Eng!!
string h >>
espacial greetings to my love Beth Tamayo!
bukbuk >>
Ngeeek! naku po lamaya naman! sira na talaga
iron mah >>
Ikulong si Erap ng habang-buhay sa banyo!

A HACKER known as "string_h" has struck again, this time defacing the website of the central bank. This is not the official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas site. This is the one defaced by the hacker.

Bangko Sentral website hacked, network breach reported

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

THE FILIPINO hacker codenamed "string_h" has struck again. This time, the hacker has defaced the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas website (http://www.bsp.gov.ph).

In an e-mail sent to this reporter, string_h claimed that he has gone further into the agency's network and supposedly uncovered interesting information about certain companies and government agencies.

Chris de Castro, information system analyst at the central bank, confirmed that the website was vandalized on Thursday, but denied that the hacker was able to intrude into their local area network (LAN).

"They only vandalized the website," De Castro told the INQUIRER.

This was not the first time the website had been attacked by hackers, he added. The latest attack, however, brought it down for a day. They were able to restore the site later in the day. They learned of the attack around 10 a.m. Thursday.

BANGKO/ p.G4

Former Lotus exec now chief of IBM software group

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

VICTOR Silvino, former chief of Lotus Software Philippines, was recently named head of IBM Philippines' software group.

Silvino was managing director of Lotus Philippines for four years until parent firm IBM decided to make the company, which was an independent subsidiary, a division under the new software group.

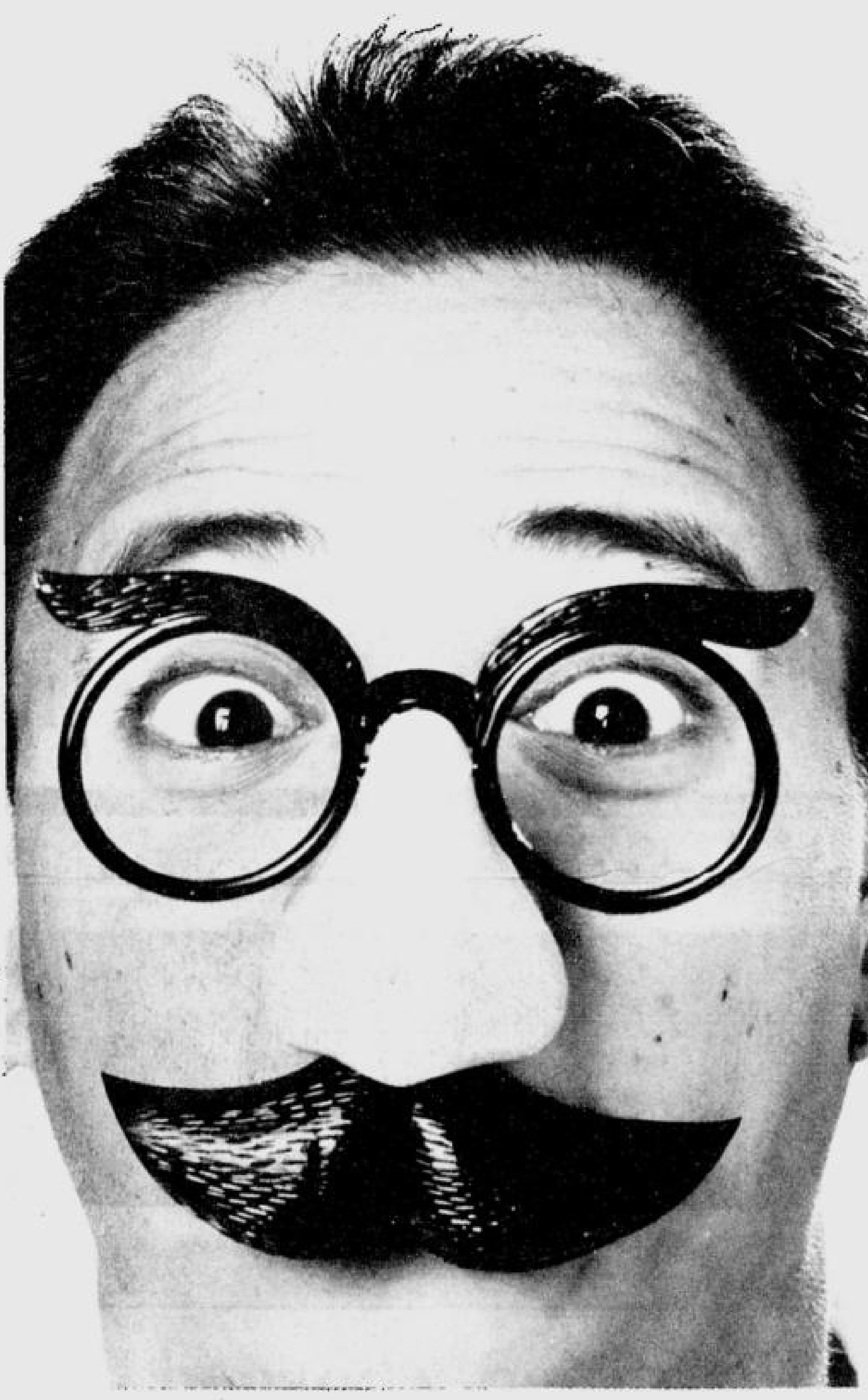
Silvino is expected to take charge of four software brands of IBM, namely Lotus, WebSphere, DB2 and Tivoli.

IBM's software business is among the three revenue growth areas today. It boasted that it would be the second largest software firm in the world—next to Microsoft—if it were a free-standing company. The company's revenues from software have reached $13 billion last year.

Silvino was recruited to lead the local software group because of his experience at Lotus Philippines. He has reportedly built a "profitable" Lotus business in the country. Lotus is known for its messaging and collaboration software.

"With the combined IBM and Lotus Software group, we are launching the industry's best-of-breed and leading edge e-business soft-

FORMER/ p.G3



When is a server not a server? When it's just a fast LAN-capable desktop PC masquerading as a server -- which is exactly the case with most entry-level "servers" in the market. Unlike the Compaq ProLiant ML330, which is especially designed from the ground up to meet the needs of growing business on real server hardware. It's affordable -- and it's a server all the way to the core. It comes with real server hardware, from its Serverworks 3.0 server chipset, powered by Intel Pentium III processor, to its high-performance 80MB/s Ultra2 SCSI storage. It offers all the reliability you expect from a ProLiant. And it comes complete with the manageability you need from your server, with built-in Compaq Smart Start, Insight Manager, and Availability Agents. All these to make sure that if it's a server you need, it's a server you'll get.

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INQ7.NET SPONSORS EXPO

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is sponsoring the Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001 which will be held from June 14 to 17 at the Philippine Trade and Training Center. INQ7.net, the joint online news delivery venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network Inc., will feature its latest e-commerce services—iAuctions and iShopping—at the expo. The Convergence and Connectivity Expo 2001 will highlight an exhibit of convergence solutions and technologies, a two-day industry conference, an intensive XML and Java scripting seminar and an educational seminar. At the contract signing are (from left) Edna Belleza, INQ7.net VP for sales and linkages; Norelyn Barbiera, VP of Fiera de Manila; Dennis Valdes, president and CEO of INQ7.net; and Ruth Luntao, project manager of the expo.

Canadian Hotel offers wireless Net access to business travelers

SASKATOON—The wireless revolution continues in Canada, as the Saskatoon Travelodge Hotel became one of the country's first hotels to offer high-speed, wireless Internet access to its guests and convention participants.

When checking in, business travellers simply install a credit-card-sized 3Com 11Mbps Wireless LAN PC card, along with a CD-ROM containing quick install software, into their notebook computer. In less than five minutes, guests can access the Internet at up to 100 times the speed of traditionally slow telephone connections. The inherent mobility of the technology allows users to maximize the convenience and efficiency of conducting business anywhere in the 268-room Saskatoon Travelodge facility, including hotel rooms, conference rooms, restaurant or even poolside.

In fact, corporate conferences have already been booked because of the availability of the wireless high-speed access.

The ability to stay connected at the fastest speeds, anytime, anywhere is made possible by Shaw Communications and 3Com Canada. Shaw Communications, a premier supplier of broadband access, delivers high-speed Internet access into the hotel. 3Com, a leading provider of network solutions, then distributes the high-speed connection to all corners of the hotel with its award-winning wireless LAN solution.

Itanium finally arrives in RP

By Joel D. Pinaroc

HIGH-END computer servers based on Itanium, the 64-bit microprocessor co-developed by chipmaker Intel Corp. and hardware company Hewlett-Packard (HP), will finally be rolled out following earlier delays in the chip's shipment.

It may be a long time coming but the wait will be worth it, according to officials of the two companies who made the joint announcement of the chip's availability in the Philippine market in a press briefing.

HP has also announced that it started to roll out its servers based on Itanium to be collectively called the Itanium Processor Family.

"HP is finally rolling out Itanium-based servers. We expect other hardware companies to come out with their own Itanium-based systems in the coming weeks," said HP Philippines general manager Raymund del Val.

Itanium-based systems, however, are expected to occupy a niche market, since the chip will not be manufactured in high volumes.

"We see computing demand for terabytes of data following the continuing growth of the Internet, although the Itanium chip is not for high-volume servers. It will initially occupy a niche market consisting of early technology adopters and those who will immediately need to process terabyte-size data," said Intel Philippines country manager Ricky Banaag.

The Itanium is a 64-bit processor and is said to be the next standard on which future servers and workstations will be based. Formerly known as "Merced" in its development stages, the chip is expected to be the next great leap from Intel. Intel is known primarily as a producer of high-volume processors for personal computers and low-end servers, based on older 32-bit technology.

64-bit systems will be able to handle more voluminous and much more complex computing requirements, such as storage, security and scalability. These requirements are usually found in large companies with large databases.

Banaag added that one of the most important features of the Itanium chip is its L3 cache, a faster incarnation of the previous L2 cache in 32-bit systems. The cache "aids" the microprocessor in data processing and, in the case of the L2 cache, runs at half the speed of the actual clock speed of the chip. An L3 cache, however, will run at the same clock speed as the microprocessor.

64-bit computing is not entirely new since reduced instruction set computing (RISC) has been available for years now. The apparent glitch with RISC-based systems is that competing vendors often come up with their own versions of the RISC platform.

Itanium is based on explicitly parallel instruction computing or EPIC.

Hardware leaders such as IBM, Sun Microsystems and HP have been using RISC-based systems that are essentially proprietary, since these vendors have come out with their own versions of the 64-bit platform.

This will not be the case for Itanium, HP and Intel claim, since Itanium will support open computing standards.

Backed by an estimated $5 billion spent on its research and development, Itanium is seen to pose a serious challenge to existing and much older 64-bit technologies, such as RISC.

The only apparent hitch is that the development of the Itanium chip took nearly a decade and its launch has been hounded by delays.

As co-developer of Itanium, HP expects to reap a windfall since it would have the first crack at migrating its existing RISC-based systems to the new platform.

"What we expect to get out of being the co-developer of the Itanium chip is that we know it more than hardware competitors who will also be using the chip in their future products," Del Val said.

Del Val also said HP will not be abandoning or phasing out its own RISC development efforts, though the migration from RISC to Itanium and other future Itanium-based chips, is seen to be more or less definite.

Itanium has also gathered momentum with hardware companies such as Dell, IBM and Compaq expected to join HP in parading and unveiling Itanium-based systems in the coming months. On the software side, software giant Microsoft will also be supporting Itanium with a 64-bit Windows operating system, Windows XP, now in the works.

Interestingly, Sun Microsystems has so far remained as one of the few companies that have yet to express support for Itanium. The company, a leader in the high-end server market, has been manufacturing its own processors for its server product line. Sun's 64-bit SPARC processor has been around for almost a decade now.

This early, Intel is also set to parade the next wave of 64-bit processors following Itanium. Intel's next 64-bit chip, codenamed "McKinley," has already been unveiled in its early development stage.

What's the fuss about Itanium and 64-bit computing?

By Gerry Plaza

WE'VE learned about the recent launch of the much-anticipated Itanium chip, Intel's first processor based on its new 64-bit architecture. But is the Itanium chip simply part of Intel's allegiance to Moore's Law or is the 64-bit architecture it espouses, termed IA-64, presents that giant leap that would surely benefit users on the Intel-based space?

Such 64-bit platform allows a computer system to address main memory in various levels of magnitude. Applications needing large, gigabyte-laden resources, such as large databases and Internet enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, should benefit from Itanium's 64-bit address space.

Even if Itanium's release proves to be a success, how will it affect businesses and their desire for increased processing power?

Furthermore, how will the Itanium's entry affect users and professionals responsible for implementing the new breed of IA-64 computers?

Itanium and IA-64 will surely impact the industry not only of processor manufacturing but also far beyond the average motherboard. While Digital Equipment Corp., now part of Compaq Computer, started 64-bit processing with the Alpha chip in 1993, and Sun Microsystems and Hewlett-Packard long embedded 64-bit chips in their Reduced Instruction Set Computing-based servers, Intel's Itanium chip would surely influence the industry, considering Intel's clout in server processing and its leadership in the manufacture and distribution of processors.

However, even users of Intel-based systems might have loads of migration issues to deal with.

Chief Information Officers and system administrators need to be oriented not only with Itanium, but also with the entire IA-64 architecture.

After establishing familiarity, they can start the migration process to Itanium. This should include the listing and mapping of hardware platforms that have an effect on the new processors, as well as how this migration to Itanium could affect their business applications.

Itanium and IA-64 should enjoy broad industry support. Microsoft and Intel have harped on IA-64's importance and benefits in the same way Digital and Sun had pushed their respective 64-bit RISC chip platforms (Alpha and SPARC).

The biggest difference: RISC players have offered 64-bit processors for a good number of years already, while Intel started only last month.

The biggest benefit one could get from Itanium is its support for very large memory (VLM) architectures. This is strengthened with the assurance from Intel development partners that the Itanium chip will be able to handle VLM across a flurry of memory and motherboard platforms from third parties.

Bolstered processing power from Itanium would influence a good number of enterprise-class applications. This includes e-commerce transaction engines, relational databases, and ERP applications. Itanium's VLM support would use enhanced RAM silicon architectures, as well as standard processor support, chipset and the peripheral hardware and operating system software.

Apart from its intrinsic capability to support massive chunks of RAM, IA-64 introduces a new processing design, which Intel calls "explicitly parallel instruction computing," or Epic. Developed in partnership with HP, Epic will

WHAT'S/ p.G4

Changing the fonts in all of your PowerPoint slides

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

YOU can actually manipulate the fonts of your Microsoft PowerPoint slides all at the same time. Here's how:

(1) Open your PowerPoint presentation.

(2) Go to "View" then to "Outline."

(3) Powerpoint will display a slide-by-slide view of all the text in your presentation.

(4) Select "Edit" then click on "Select All."

(5) All the text in your presentation is now highlighted.

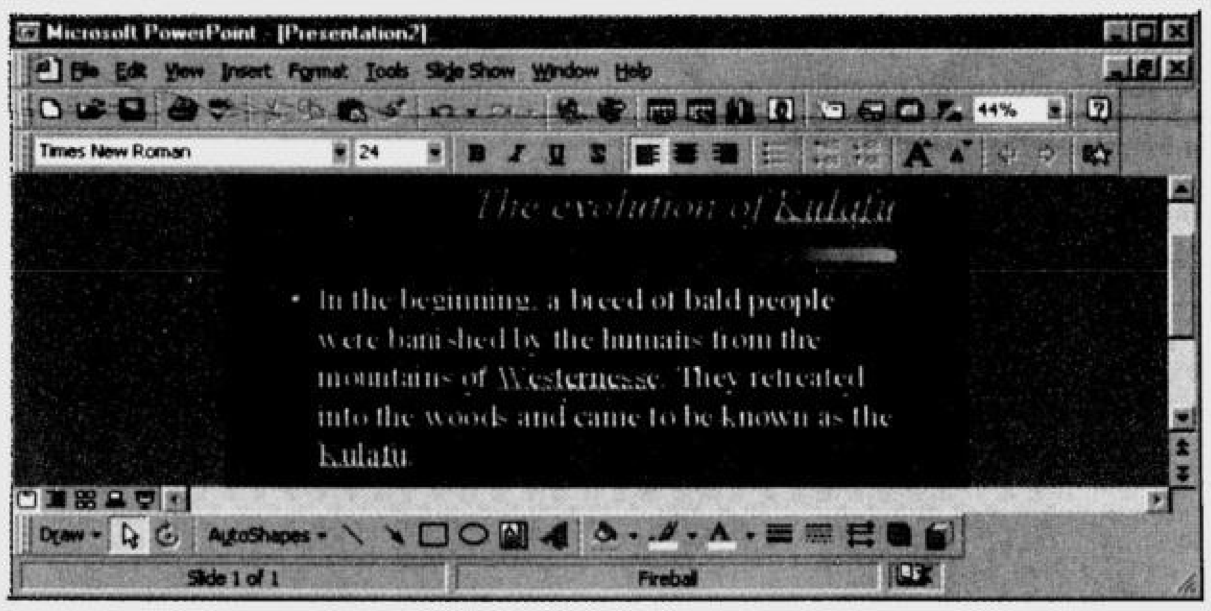
(6) Choose "Format," then choose "Font."

(7) Select the font, style and size you want your fonts to adopt and then click on "OK."

(8) All the text in your presentation will now be converted to the new font and specifications you have selected.

For more tips, visit our website at www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join the Powertips Group. Simply send your name, address, age, profession and company name to infochat @mozcom.com and receive free tips via e-mail.

For questions, comments and suggestions, send e-mail to the same address.



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24
Draw
AutoShapes
Slide 1 of 1
Fireball

The evolution of Kulafu

- In the beginning, a breed of bald people were banished by the humans from the mountains of Westernesse. They retreated into the woods and came to be known as the Kulafu.

School-hacking suspects identified, charged by NBI

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

TWO suspects involved in the alleged hacking of the computer systems of a Philippine-based business school have been identified and will be facing criminal charges, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said in a press conference.

The suspects, Caesar Manalac and Leilani Garcia, were former employees of the Thames International Business School based in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Manalac was former information technology support head, while Garcia was former systems coordinator of the school. Manalac is being charged with violation of section 33-A of the E-commerce Law, which penalizes hacking or unauthorized access into a computer system.

Garcia, on the other hand, was also charged with the same crime for conspiring with Manalac to "steal" proprietary information from the school.

The penalty for such acts includes a minimum fine of P100,000 and "a maximum commensurate to the damage incurred" by the plaintiff, plus imprisonment of six months to three years.

In a telephone interview, however, Manalac denied the charges against him, saying that the NBI told them that there was "no evidence" to support the school's allegations against them.

"We visited the NBI on May 29 and we were told that there was no case because they had no evidence against us. What they're claiming is not true," Manalac told the Inquirer.

Lawyer Elfren Meneses Jr., chief of the NBI's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, however, maintained that their evidence pointed to Manalac and Garcia.

In an affidavit filed with the NBI, Jaime Noel Santos, co-founder and director of Thames, alleged that Manalac had hacked into the school's computers and copied "valuable intellectual properties" with the intent of selling them as his own.

The school's suspicions against Manalac surfaced when he resigned on Feb. 15.

Preliminary investigations by the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division indicated that Manalac used passwords to conceal the contents of his computer.

A search through his work area including his computer allegedly uncovered a number of school copyrighted materials, study guides and training manuals that were not supposed to be in his possession.

Manalac was subsequently summoned by the school to explain, but refused to cooperate, according to the affidavit.

The NBI soon discovered that Manalac had set up his own company that was "strikingly" similar to Thames.

In a separate interview, Santos disclosed that Manalac was chief executive officer of a company called Net Options Web Solutions.

Santos alleged that the accounting and marketing templates of Net Options were lifted from Thames' business plan. Only Santos had access to such information, and the only way Manalac could copy the files was to hack into the school's network.

He also pointed out that Hong Kong-based computer "forensics" experts hired by the school were able to uncover the copied files from Manalac's computer.

Santos claimed that Manalac joined an investment mission funded by the Canadian International Investment Fund through the Canadian Private Enterprise Accelerated Resource Linkages project, with the "intention of marketing Net Options' pirated business plan at a gain."

He said that Manalac left for Canada as a member of the mission on Feb. 26, less than two weeks after his resignation from Thames.

Personalities at CommunicAsia2001

SINGAPORE Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, James Murdoch, chair and CEO of Star Group, Mr. Kurt Hellstrom, president and CEO of Ericsson and Dr. Lawrence Roberts, founder, chair and chief technology officer of Caspian Networks, and widely known as one of the "Fathers of the Internet" are among the speakers and panelists in the different fora and discussion groups of CommunicAsia2001 to be held from June 19 to 22 at the Singapore Expo.

The event is the largest Asian infocomm trade show. It is organized by the Singapore Exhibition Services and hosted by the Infocomms Development Authority of Singapore.

Communications and IT technologies such as 3G, bluetooth, broadband, wireless, GPRS and other killer applications will dominate the annual exhibition and conference.

Siemens will showcase the mEvent Portal, a personal WAP companion for conferences, trade shows and other events. The service enables WAP phones to receive pertinent information such as an exhibition's floor plan, exhibitor's details and a real time schedule of events taking place. It will also be launching its very own GPRS multimobile PDA cum phone, the S45.

Oracle to provide financial news

ORACLE Corp. has announced its partnerships with CFO.com and the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) to offer finance and accounting professionals personalized online access to news, information and research on Oracle.com.

This is the first of a series of line of business (LOB) initiatives designed to provide professionals in different functional roles with the personalized business tools, applications and information they need in one place: Oracle.com.

Oracle's partnership with CFO.com, the online professional resource of CFO Publishing, that facilitates management decisions of senior financial executives, is designed to facilitate management decisions for senior financial executives. The IMA is one of the largest international organizations for advancing accounting and financial management. Both of these partnerships provide free, value-added LOB services directly to Oracle.com users. Oracle.com is a single-entry point into Oracle's online applications that includes third party productivity tools and information enabling companies to run their business entirely on the Internet

"Oracle.com is offering users critical information specific to their line of business function," said Mark Jarvis, chief marketing officer, Oracle Corp. "CFO.com and IMA are just the kind of partners that can help us create an effective business workplace for financial management professionals that provide expert industry content."

"With Oracle's leadership in the marketplace and move to extend its services into the small-to-medium size business market, this partnership will cement our position as the leading site for financial executives seeking the financial news, analysis and information they need to make decisions in today's fast-paced, multi-channel economy," said Justin Smith, president of CFO.com.

"Oracle and IMA have partnered to create the global e-business environment of tomorrow that will help accountants and financial management professionals do their jobs more efficiently," said Frank Minter, CPA, IMA's president. IMA members will soon have access to the e-business portal on the IMA website, www.imanet.org.

NBI says 'Love bug' case to be reopened

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THE CASE against the suspected author of the infamous ILOVEYOU virus will be reopened by the justice department, local enforcement officials said.

"After months of review, the Department of Justice has set aside their resolution to dismiss the case and open it up for preliminary investigation," said Elfren Meneses Jr., chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division.

Meneses said that the bureau is still convinced that De Guzman could still be charged with violation of the country's law that deals with credit card fraud.

The justice department earlier dropped the case against De Guzman after the NBI failed to provide sufficient evidence to nail the former student of the AMA Computer College.

Investigators charged De Guzman of violating the Access Devices Regulation Act of 1998 (RA 8484).

"There is a misconception that Republic Act 8484 is limited to credit card fraud. But there is a provision in the law that covers crimes that do not necessarily fall under credit card fraud. We're going to use that," said Palmer Mallari, an agent of the computer crimes division. He also hinted that the bureau has found new evidence indicating that De Guzman allegedly committed "malicious mischief."

De Guzman's lawyers have argued previously that he could have launched the virus by "accident."

"Our investigations showed that as early as May 1999, De Guzman's telephone number had been used to hack into Sky Internet (a local Internet service provider), and that he has drafted the virus in November 1999. So the claim of accidental launch of the virus has already been proven wrong by the NBI," Mallari said. "This means he is not yet off the hook."

Reports said De Guzman has found a job in a British security firm in Makati City after gaining international notoriety.

The ILOVEYOU virus wreaked havoc on millions of computers worldwide last year when it was classified as a "worm" hidden in an e-mail message that had a subject "I LOVE YOU."

The virus was estimated to have infected at least 45 million computers including those in the American automotive giant Ford Motor Co., the Pentagon in the United States and the British parliament.

SILVINO

Former . . .

(From page G1)

ware solutions portfolio today," said Silvino in a statement.

Erik Elzerman, general manager of IBM Software for the Asean and South Asia, for his part, pointed out that the merger of Lotus with other software products would help "reestablish IBM as even a stronger force to reckon with" in the software market.

"The integrated IBM Philippines Software Group will provide the necessary synergy to address customer needs proactively and at the same time work closely with our business Partners and independent software vendors," Elzerman added.

Apple Philippines expands distribution network, partners with MSI Digiland

APPLE hopes to extend its wings in the Philippine market following a partnership with a three-year-old local distributor of computer products.

Apple Philippines last week signed a deal with MSI Digiland, allowing the local distributor to sell Apple products through a network of more than 1,000 resellers in the country.

In an interview, Charlie Tang, country manager of Apple Philippines, said that the partnership would boost its current standing in the PC-dominated market. Tang, however, declined to disclose the company's sales target.

"We would sell as much Apples. It's not our policy to predict the future," remarked Tang.

For now, Tang hopes to change the local impression that Apple computers are just plain expensive. He said that Apple has been striving to bring down the cost of its products to a level competitive with branded PCs.

"An iBook now sells for P76,000. An IBM ThinkPad is about P80,000, and an Acer Travelmate around P74,000," Tang said.

"I think (people have) the impression that an Apple computer is expensive because (they) don't see it everywhere," remarked Princess Ong, MSI Digiland's sales and marketing director for consumer products.

She said she believes that Apple computers have "potential" in the Philippine market considering that Apple Philippines has partnered with the local distributor.

"We're a product-focused company. We have a dedicated team for each product we sell. Apple is a specialized product and we have designated a team for the product," Ong said.

Apple has had a slew of announcements in the local market recently, marking a comeback after a hiatus of several years following problems with local distributorship.

Recently, the Titanium PowerBook G4 was released, marking the start of an onslaught of new Apple products in the Philippines.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

The Philippine Center for Creative Imaging
July - September 2001 Workshops
the only Adobe Certified Training Provider in the Philippines
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Basic Photography
Wedding Photography (Seminar)
Adobe Acrobat 1: Basics of PDF Production
Adobe PageMaker
Designing Logo Systems & Corporate Identity
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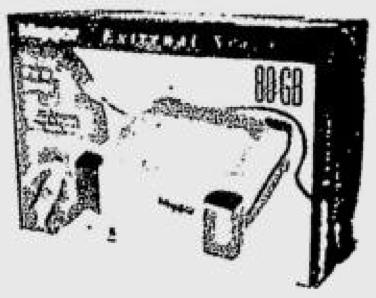

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ERICSSON

Angara, Recto push for automated polls

By Erwin Oliva

SENATORS-ELECT Edgardo Angara and Ralph Recto indicated plans of pushing for the modernization of the elections as soon as they assume office on July 1.

Right after his proclamation last week, opposition candidate Angara said that there is a need to "overhaul the electoral process."

"*Masyadong matagal ang* canvassing (The canvassing takes too long), giving opportunities to (commit) electoral fraud," remarked the Puwersa ng Masa contender who ranked highest from his party in the senatorial race.

Angara, however, admitted that computerization of the elections alone would not thwart massive cheating during the elections.

Administration candidate Ralph Recto agreed.

"Until we don't computerize (elections) we would have these problems," remarked the former Batangas representative when asked about allegations of vote-padding favoring him in Tawi-tawi, Zamboanga del Norte, Sultan Kudarat and Batangas.

ANGARA

Recto said that the Commission on Elections should revive projects that were shelved, including precinct mapping, the voters registration identification system, and the automated counting and consolidation of results system.

"The computerization program should have three components. One is a national precinct mapping project identifying the precincts where voters should vote. Second, we need to have a database (of voters). Everyone should carry an ID card to eliminate disenfranchisement of voters. Third, there should be a computerized counting of votes," he added.

"The technology is available. And it is not very expensive. It is a small price to pay for our democratic stability," he said.

What's all the fuss about Itanium?

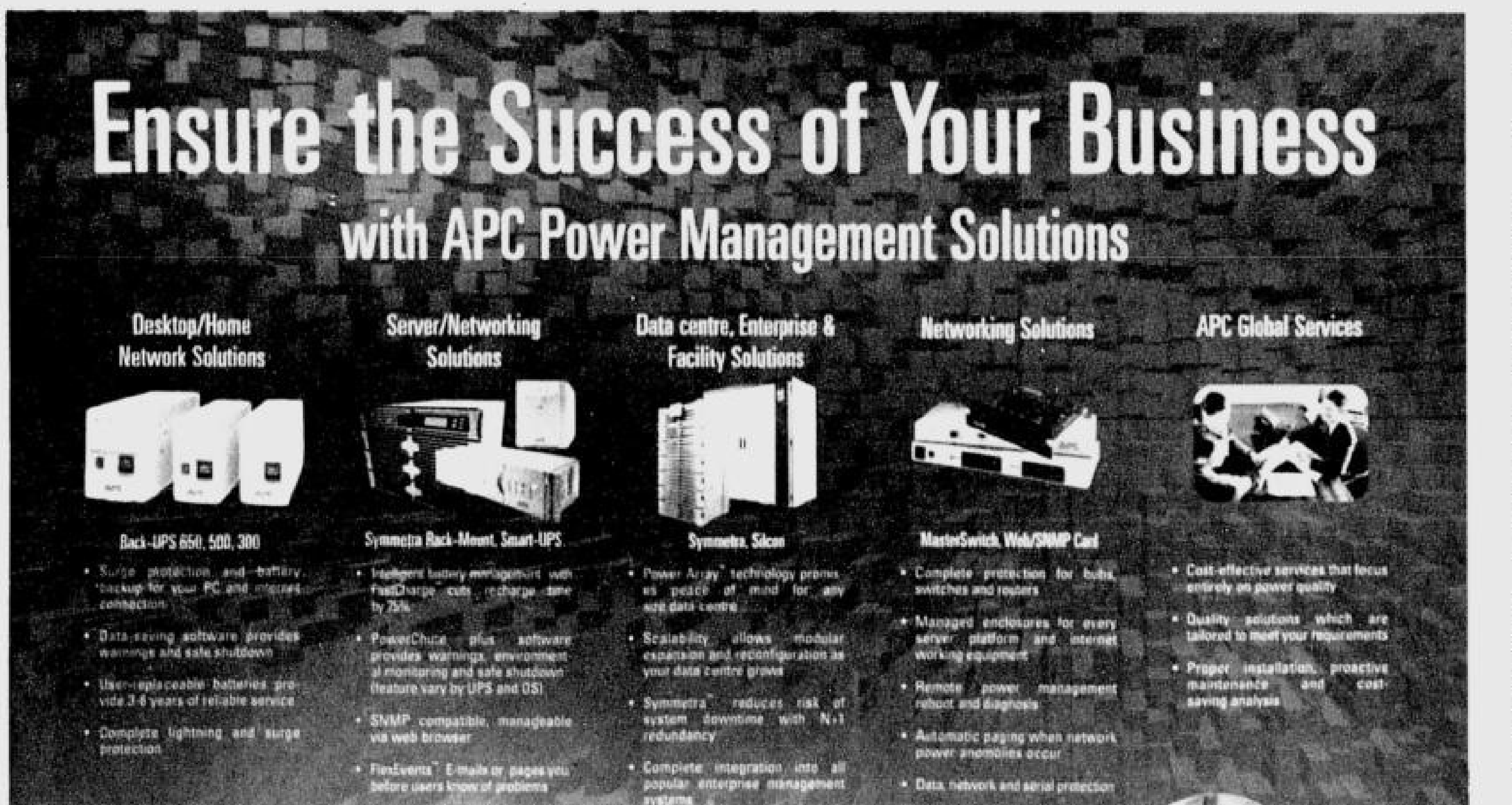
(From page G2)

place Intel in the parallel processing arena, allowing higher instruction parallelism while at the same time keeping the design simple to ease scalability issues.

Epic would alter the way the CPU communicates with applications by more efficient data processing. It includes extensive processing resources for high-end applications such as cache, data, logic, instructions, functional units and register. In other words, Epic goes beyond basic 64-bit RISC design.

HP, codeveloper of the Itanium processor, was also at the forefront of 64-bit RISC computers with its PA-RISC chips, which in the mid-'90s competed head-on with Digital's Alpha processor. Whether or not the PA-RISC chip will be abandoned by HP is not yet clear.

But one thing big is going for Itanium and future 64-bit chips of the non-RISC variety: As software giant Microsoft Corp. continues to port its operating systems to the 64-bit platform, more users and manufacturers will find the transition to 64-bit computing more viable. In the end, this reason of viability may becoime one of necessity as one factors in obsolescence in the fast-pased information technology industry.



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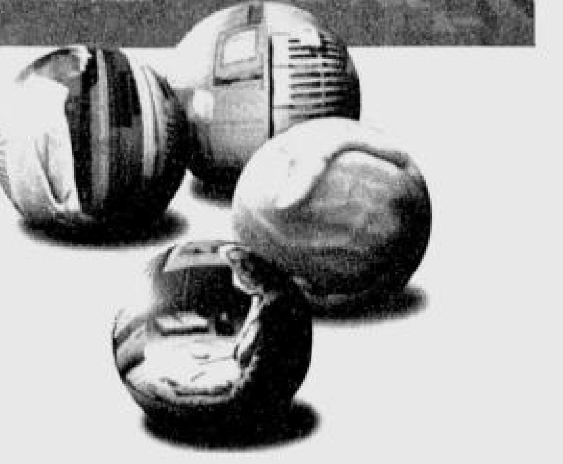

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Bangko Sentral . . .

(From page G1)

De Castro pointed out that the hacker could have not penetrated the LAN because it was separate from the computers running the website. It was not clear, though, if the hacker was referring to breaking into the agency's e-mail servers.

"Maybe you think I hack websites for fun. Well, the challenge is fun because it is very hard to understand the complexity of a networked system. But once you've studied it, it's like ABC," string_h told the INQUIRER.

His recent intrusion, he stressed, was "not to have fun but to exercise my right to know the truth about our government, how they spend my tax money, (and) to know more about the rich and influential people who govern the welfare of the people."

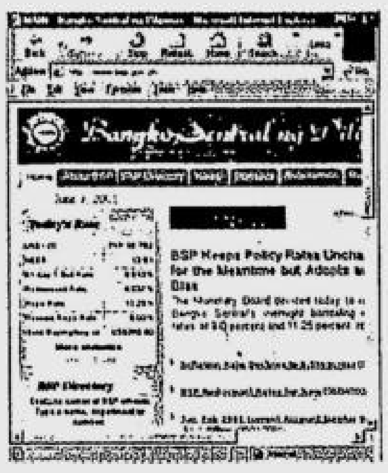
As a result, he claimed to have uncovered information on an "influential" Filipino company that was allegedly behind the push for the passage of the E-commerce Law.

"*Talagang tinulak nila* (They really pushed for it) not for the benefit of growing the economy, but to protect their growth. You won't believe how much money they're investing in cyberspace," he said.

Interestingly, he boasted that he was able to shut down this influential company's servers, and got hold of the chief executive officer's usernames and passwords.

Another discovery he claims to have made involves a government agency allegedly spending huge amounts of money on computer software and hardware.

"Do you know how much money they're spending for PC equipment after equipment? A lot. For just (a) one-floor building, we are talking about 10 to 15 laser printers (I mean HP 4000 TN models), 15 useless servers, Windows NT workstations...they also have their own computer supply room! Optical CDR, DVD burners, etc. etc. goes on and on. That's only for one floor, man! These guys are living in style!" he wrote.


BSP Keeps Policy Rates Uncha for the Meantime but Adopts Bias

THE BSP site after the attack, with the necessary corrections.

"It is okay to spend that much money if they are doing their job right. The last time I read documents, it seems like anyone can be certified by (this agency) for some amount of money. We are talking about any form of certification or licensing," he claimed.

String_h brags that he has defaced close to 30 websites, including the corporate website of WS Fiesta Online, one of the shareholders of local search engine Yehey! And these are just in the Philippines.

On his recent intrusion, he had this to say: "The Philippine economy will not change. No matter who rules, no matter how sound the plans are, no matter which cardinal gives his blessing. We can never govern our own government!"

Dotcom CEOs . . .

(From page G1)

change?'" followed by 'Over the course of the negotiation, Disini asked for compensation for expenses (P50,000), 19.2 kbps leased line at cost, and free access to PHnet bandwidth."

"The clear implication of Mr. Contreras' public and recorded statements was that I was an unethical businessman and was also engaged in extortion by demanding unreasonable consideration for services—all of which is untrue and devoid of factual basis," Disini stated in his complaint-affidavit.

The complaint-affidavit went on to state that Disini personally heard the statements since he was present during the March 27 meeting.

The complaint-affidavit added that Disini "rose immediately and repeatedly to defend myself from the malicious public imputations which took me absolutely by surprise not only because such ad hominem attacks were not proper in such a forum but also because they were also untrue."